Ross Dowson archives -- Vancouver & B.C. correspondence – 1948

01_14	Letter to Reg (Bullock), re: our surprising results in Toronto civic campaign; cut back to one person on centre payroll; the party sustaining fund drive; crisis in the FI; our BC forces caught unawares on anti-arms actions; *LC* ultraleftist on IWA and Bill 39?
01_17	Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: the poor N.O.-Vancouver contact relations; lack of articles from BC for *Labor Challenge*
01_17B	Letter to Reg Bullock, Vancouver, re: the good CCF response to our Toronto civic campaign; our relations with Lloyd and Tom in the IWA and assistance from the SWP
01_17C	Attachment to previous letter to Reg B, re: letter from Bill (W.) re retrenchment in Vancouver branch; need to rethink this move
01_20	Letter to Reg Bullock, re: need to lay charges against Lloyd and Tom for disloyalty and lack of taking branch direction in IWA
01_30	Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: PC report to NC on court action taken against Stalinist hooligan attack on a Toronto comrade; defense of use of capitalist courts; Cannon and Trotsky on the use of reactionary committees for revolutionary purposes
03_23-1	Letter to Lloyd (W.) re: ultraleftist Stalinist policy in the IWA
03_23-2	(p.2) RD argues against periodic bulletins in BC
03_23-3	(p.3) on the use of courts against Stalinist hooliganism
04_15	Letter to Reg Bullock, re: back to a twice-monthly LC; the May Day manifesto; a critique of our IWA motion and our politics in the IWA
04_15B	Letter to Stan (S.), re: his good article for *LC*; RD's corrections to the article on the sliding scale of wages
04_30	Letter to Bill (W., Britannia Beach), re: his relations with the Vancouver branch, any local report on Mine-Mill and red-baiters
05_01	Letter to Reg (B.) on BC articles for *Labor Challenge*, past, present and future
05_04	Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: the delay and shortage of international discussion bulletins; we and the US comrades unable to reproduce them; no news yet of 2nd W.C. in Paris

05_04B Letter to Tom (B.), re: Toronto May Day celebration cancelled by police action; Reg's harsh criticisms of the PC position of tactical use of bourgeois courts in case of Stalinist attacks; a discussion on an IWA resolution coming from Tom, not Reg

05_20 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: revisions to Ruth's article on the anti-labor law rally; the May Day article too scholarly; the article line-up next issue; no funds for an election campaign; the CCF election campaign

06_25 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: success of subscription drive in Toronto as well as Vancouver; our policy of boycotting government labor boards or administering capitalist legislation

06_25B Letter to Bill (W.), re: we should not publicly disown centrist CCFer Young as a Trotskyist; activity in the Burnaby CCYM and possible contacts there

07_19 Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: their likely opposition to the line of article on a Young speech in Parliament already published in LC will be discussed at a PC meeting shortly

07_19B Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: the decision to publish only one issue of *Labor Challenge* during the summer months

07_19C Letter to Reg Bullock, re: possibility of contacting local Yugoslav-Canadians re the *LC* article on the Stalin-Tito rupture; the history of the boycott as a tactic in the revolutionary movement; B.C. Bill 39

07_20 Letter to Bill re: interbranch correspondence

07_99 Undated letter found in July to Ruth Bullock, re: her *LC* article on the housewives' buyers' strike; a critique by RD and photo

08_04 +Letter to Reg (Bullock) re: sending SWP union resolutions to BC ; need a journal article on the IWA situation and the Stalinists' role

08_14 Letter to Stan Stanton, re: the large size of the Toronto library; the writing and editing of articles for our press; the need for B.C. writers

08_17 Letter to William W. (Bill) White, Britannia Beach, re: the need for an article from him on union demands in the mine

09_07 Letter to Bill W., re: the new positions of Lloyd and Tom putting into question World Congress policies on the Soviet Union; also no news on functioning of the IWA caucus in B.C. received; an atmosphere of distrust in B.C. that prevents political discussion

09_10 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the lack of discussion on B.C. IWA work vs. the full *LC* coverage of the Ontario Rogers strike; need news of B.C. branch activity; proposal for a B.C. subscription drive

11_04 Letter to Comrade (Rod) Young (MP), re: RD's regrets at not being able to meet with him in Vancouver; a letter Nov. Ninth from Rod Young re the possibility of a future meeting in Toronto

11_18 +(p.2&3)Letter to Reg Bullock, re: his reaction to RD's article on the B.C. IWA situation; J-M Bédard's views; the Stalinist and "Fadling gang" class-collaboration IWA caucuses; Lloyd's and Tom's roles; the urgent need for a meeting of IWA party comrades

12_13 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: preparation for the Toronto civic election campaign; Reg's article on the B.C. IWA; the opportunities for us presented in the IWA Iron River strike and the need to demark ourselves from the strike leadership

12_14 ***(2htms)*** Letter to Lloyd (W.) and Tom (B.), re: the NC grants Lloyd's request for a leave of absence but with closest collaboration possible given their trade union situation; the urgent need for our forces to condemn the IWA leadership

January 14 1948

Dear Reg; Bullock

We have received the last three letters that you sent dated Nov.22, Dec 8 and Jan 4 alright but have been terribly busy as you can imagine either working on the election or in the past period on many things that we were forced to let slip during the elections.

But from waht we here from the various comrades across the country the effort which has caused this delay was well worth it. It seems that the campaign received national publicity besides turning out amazingly well in actual votes recorded. A few days ago we received a letter from a fellow in Picton, a small town between here and Montreal. It was addressed to myself, the fellow who ran for mayor in the civic elections. The post office forwarded it. Our correspondent wanted to know more about us, a list of literature etc. Another worker who has been in contadt with an ex-member wrote us a letter immediately after the elections asking for literature. We have seen him and he is coming down to our forums and looks like very good party meterial.

There is no question that the campaign will be a shot in the arm for the whole party and the international. While the general situation is not condusive to party building on any extensive scale it should be an inspuration for anyone at all close to us and enable us to make some limited organizational conquests. Tom tells me that Vancouver has a few good contact around who you expect to bring into the party shorlty. The Toronto beanch is setting aside Feb and March for an membership drive. We do not expect any terrific results but I am sure with a few breaks we will bring three or four into the party. Even a tiny organizational growth would go a long way in solving our financial problems.

I wont say much on the elections as you no doubt have received the paper by now. We have not yet got the breakdown of the vote on a sub-division baais so we are unable to do a real job as yet on various aspects of the vote. We expect the returns from city hall next week. When we get them we intend to write up some material of some of our experiences and lessons learned for an internal bulletin. Let8s see if I can get organized here.

1) I hope that you have received the material on the party's financial position and have had an opportunity to have a rounded discussion with the other N.C. members. We have already carried out the first decsion..thatis to cut one person off the pay-roll. As of January 3 there is only one comrade on the pay-roll. The othere comrade is still functioning as a full timer without pay uuntil we can clear up a few details such as outlined in the last P.C. minutes. One of them of course is what are we going to do with the paper. The other is the matter of the World Conferecne, this seems to me to be the most important one holding us up. We have received al etter from Uncle Sam saying that they do not exaclty know what the relationship of forces is but are writing immediately to Europe and will let us know as soon as possible. They also tell us that they do not think that they can possibly help us financially but will take that up when they get the word from Europe. If the word comes back that the fate of the international is in the balance then there is no doubt in my mind that wecwill have to do what is necessary regardless of

the costs. I am sure that all the comrades agree that it would be a staggering set back for the world party if the international felll into revisionist hands. We should know very shortly.If it is necessary that someone go then there is little doubt in my mind that we will be required to go back to a monthly for a period. Not only to save money which in itslef is very necessary but I do not think we could handle a twice monthly with one ofvthe leading comrades away from the centre. The P.C.as reported in the minutes does not think that with one full time comrade can we handle a twice monthly and even begin to handle the affiars of the National Office. We here do not feel that L.C. going back to a monthly xxx up until the sub drive will have any demoralizing effect on our members or on our supporters. I am inclined to think that it will if anything have a tightening up effect. The party ranks generally appear to be pretty solid. Such action would possibly make those few comrades who do not take their financial obligation very serious waken up. You know the situation isn't such but that a little party recoultment would solve. We have not yet received the bill for the last issue but we have been informed that it is going to be considerably higher. What with the retrenchments that all other sections of the labor movement have made I do not think such action will a demoralizing one. The comrade struck off the pay-roll is already looking for a job as we cannot afford to stall around. I hope that we receive your opinions in the next mail.

We received two articles from Bill Whitney and a lengthy letter from Tom on the Arms demonstrations. Up until we received your letter where you report the proposed mass meeting we di not understand the last paragraph on Bill last article. Would you tell him when you next see him that that is the reason that we made no mention of this proposed action. Now that I under tand it it seems to me like closing the door when the horse has gone. We have not discussed the matter at the P.C. but I will be stunned for one if you have any success at all with your appeal to the T.U. for a mass meeting. I intend to wr write Tom today or tomorrow to disccus some of the points he raises in his letter...but will make a few remarks now. I am a little suprised that "the initial picket had caught us by suprise". Although tied up in the election campaign we here had been following it up from the press. It seems to me that once the ball got rolling that the only reason that would stop or even hesitate us from being on the spot would be our smallness of forces. If we could not rally about ten people down there behind our slogans I would consider that we might have to sit this one ought and satisfy ourselves with joining the picket line as individuals or puting out a leaflet in solidarity etc. Allthe correspondence on the insident makes considerable noteof the fact that there was no real trade union base or that little was done to give it one. There is no doubt that this is the main reason why the demonstration collapsed and was AMAMAMAMAM ANOTHER crime of the Stalinists who could easily have given it such a base if they had desired to do so. However I amy be wrong but I xxxxxxx feel that this is understood to be a certain justification of our non-participation. Such criticism is very valid and important in exposing the STalinist role and in drawing the balance sheet for the workers but it seems to me to be about all.Let us suppose the whole thing had been in our hands. It is quite possible that the trade unions could not be awakened to the needs of the demonstration and boycott. As a politiqal party we would in my opinion put on a demonstration with those forces that we could awaken to the needs of struggle against the arms shipment. Without trade union support of course itbwould fail but such a demonstration even though pitifully weak would be extremely valuable. The advanced workers would

idea of what is necessary to be done and learn that there are some forces prepared to do all that is necessary. If you recall the Icelandic insident here in Toronto last winter....we tried to give it a trade union base by sending a letter to every local in Toronto but the leadership opposed any action and the workers as a whole were apathetic. We did the job anyway and in so doing made a favourable impression on many Stalinist youth who also appeared on the picket line. However perhaps I misunderstand the correspondence and we were just caught unawares do to the rush of other work etc. If this is so say no more.

[illegible].

It was [illegible] inspiring to see the breakdown on the sustaining fund drive. It is good to see that our own comrades made such splendid contributions, are so aware of the need [illegible] to really come accross. The only unfortunate aspect of the whole report is that we did not get any real support from sources outside out own ranks. I wonder if you could give me a picture of the situation as regrads ro party contacts, sympathizers, etc. In compiling the organizational report for the blletin I would like to know if we have any perhipery of any kind whatsoever, if we have one what its character is, has ithany financial possibilities or recruiting possibilities. I gather from the financial report that such a thing does not exist or if it does it has no financial sympathy for the party. Then again of course perhaps from the pressure of other work we were unable to tap it. I hope to get to work on the organizational report or at least other material slated for the bulletin in the next few days so I would appreciate it if you could touch on this at least in the next letter. Better still of couse would be to have an organizational report of Vancouver and some of its problems from [illegible] a leading member of the Vancouver branch.

Hope you received the slip I sent along with other material to show that Geroge Lyon's sub went through alright. You sent fifty cents too much as there is no longer such a thing as a combination sub and the F.I. of course is coming out every other month. [illegible] If it is ok with you we will credit the 50 cents to a 6 month sub to Labor Challenge which I find Lyon's does not subscribe to and which in my mind is more important than the Militant from the organizationla point of view.

Glad to see that Tom was able to make the Vancouver Island trip. We have had an off and on correspondence with Walker before. I gathered from his letters that he was an old timer and still quite a good man. It would certianly be a fine thing for the paper to have him write us some historical material on Canadna labor history. This stuff is going to be all lost to the workers if some of these fellows don't get down on the job. I raised the matter with him before and have recently taken it up with Harry Noakes of Magna Bay who appears to have had a wealth of experience. As a matter of fact Tom is a tressure house in this respect himself and I certainly wish some of you people put theri could get after him to sit down and put some of his experiences down on paper. I will certainly write Walker again.

With regards to the branch request that "the disagreements are more fundamental and flow from deeper disagreements of how are party should work in the trade unions, its tasks and its possibilities" should be explained[illegible]. I do not by any means feel that there are principled differences amongst us . But it seems to me that there have now been [illegible] three or four instances were there have been sharp disagreemnts on [illegible] tactics, [illegible] I think that there is more behind them than just a differecne in evaluation of a situation. I think that this was revealed on the differences that were expressed over the TWA strike in 46 and again in the various remarks that were made over the Bill 39 affair. In both cases I seem to recall that it was said that L.C. voiced a sectarian or ultra leftist position. However this is only my own opinion after having seen these differences repeat themselves. I certainly do not want to magnify them and I agree with you entirely that "the discussion should be properly confined to analysis of given situations.." In this case I think we should discuss the Bill 39 situation. I only [illegible] brought the other disagreemnts to Bills attention in the hope that by going over that correspondence and thinking it through that we might be able to draw some more valuable and general conclusions. Perhaps as you suggest tese various disagreements flow from differences in evaluation. If they do,fine!

I am very anxious to see Bill's document as I am sure that it will be a valuable contribution to the education of our party. I gather from your letter on the 8th Dec that it was almost ready to be shipped off. We have not yet received it...I hope it was not lost in the mail. I wonder if you would give Hi m a phone call and enquire about it. It would be a big help in getting out the bulletin if we received it in the next few days

I have stalled offsending you the material you requested on the situation in Britain. Lately we have received nothing and for a long while have been receiving only one copy of their bulletins. I did not send them on however as the[illegible].IEC recently had a meeting and issued several documents some dealing with the English party. Last month the SWP announced that they were publishing all the material in an internal bulletin but todate we have not yet received our copies. I wrote away yesterday asking about the bulletin. If we do not get them inside a week or two I will send onto you what we happen to have on hand

I think I have touched on most everything except a few details in the Nov.22 letter however I will try to take them up at a later date as there are several other [illegible] letters that I want to get out tonight.

Hope to you from you and the other N.C. members on the matters discussed in the N.C. minutes.just as soon as possible.

comradely

Ross Dowson

January 17, 1948

To the Vancouver Branch;

Dear Comrades;

The past two months activities revolving around the Toronto election campaign have prevented the National Office from maintaining a correct contact with the Vancouver branch. Now that the campaign XX and the most pressing work resulting from it is about over we will be able to return to our former basis of contact and we hope improve it.

While the N.O. contact with Vancouver has been unavoidably poor, Vancouver contact with the N.O. has even been less satisfactory and with no explanation .

We have received no copies of the branch minutes since prior to Comrade Dowson's visit.

Over a month ago the N.O. sent , in care of the branch secretary and for the information of the branch ,a copy of a letter to Comrade Whalen dealing with his request for leave of absence which the branch XXXreferred to the N.O. Enclosed in the letter were extensive observations on the Iron River Logging incident. These remarks were of an urgent character and on the XXXX basis of information at our disposal suggested certain lines of action. The essence of the remarks were repeated in correspondence with other comrades. To date the N.O. has received, from Vancouver sources, only one short note from Comrade Ruth Bullock.

The last issue of Labor Challenge went to press without any copy from Vancouver. XXXXX This is unfortunate from the ppint of making Labor Challenge effectively reflect the needs of the branch and the party. However we were fully expecting to receive some material from Vancouver up until the last moment. We neither received the material XXXXXX nor did we receive any word that there would be none because of circumstances beyond your control. This creates a crisis at the print shop.

The financial campaign came to a formal close some mont s ago. We have been unable to settle up the books as we were informed sometime back that there was more to come. We have receive no further word .

It is quite possible that the heavy trade union work which the branch membership is involved in has prevented the comrades responsible for the handling of this work from doing so.

If this is the case and is not just a temporary situation it would be advisable that the branch immediately consider the re-allocation, where possible, of these responsibilities. .

Whatever may be the cause we hope that we can shortly return to our former good contact

with revolutionary greetings

N.B. Since writing our correspondence on the Iron River incident we have received information from other sources that has caused us to fundamentally re-evaluate our estimation of the situation. Our suggestions were made entirely on the basis of inofmration gleaned from the WIUC?IWA, and capitalist press. This again of course only points to the need for closer contact on such important developments that so immediately involve our comrades and party.

Reg Bullock
Vancouver, B.C.

(DW - Jan 18 Reply)

Jan 17, 1948 (A)

Dear Reg;

Well what the hell is wrong out there...I felt sure that the terrific vote that we polled would rouse a rapid response. I was even inspired myself. We certianly carried on a highly principled campaign...in terrific contrast to the CCF and IPP. The leader hips of both outfits must be doing some tall explaining to their membership. You know the strength of political opportunism lies in the fact that it pays off, that is immediately in more votes, more support although of course we know that it only paves the way for demoralization and defeat. But here is a situation where it didnot even pay off hten and there. We polled more than the CCF candidates in poll after poll. Smith with his terrific campaign only doubled our vote and took quite a drop. Our vote will certainly strengthen any elements who have acceptted ~~XX~~ opportunist policies under protest or with a feeling of doubt and will help to consolidate any oppisition elements in the IPP and CCF.

Had a very successful follow up meeting in a public hall out in the east end of the city. Had a very good CCF attendance, including the secretary of the CCL-CIO Council. Sold seven subs, about 20 pamphlets, received several interest cards and the comrades are now in the process of going around to see the various persons who have made contact with the party through the campaign to assess their party possibilities. At that meeting we really hammered the CCF and IPP on their role in the elections....and the CCFers took it as did the CCL secretary who asked a very meek and friendly question. We are in the process of lining up some classes the exact nature of which will be determined as soon as we manage to cover all the contacts(about 22 odd in total) Don is preparing to handle the class or at least one of them.

The comrades really buckled down to work on the campaign...Don did an excellent job...he handled the public address system and did a great deal of the distributing. Could go on like this for hours but we are going to get an internal bulletin out within the next two weeks and there will be an extensive report on the campaign. Incidently we also had considerable help from a Montreal comrade and one of the Windsor comrades came in over the holiday week-end so it was quite a party affair.

But waht I want to get at is what is the situation out there. I am at a loss the understand the complete blackout. The only word that we have received in the past two months is the short note you sent on the 12th Dec and Ruth's note on the 15th. Nothing from the branch secreatry or anyone else. I gather that you were too tied up to handle the article for the paper but you silence and the way the Iron River incident was let slide has disturbed us a little.

Incidenlty from the information that Mrs Borland sent in and information from Byron we have ~~XXXXXXX~~ quite a different slant on the whole incident(Jean also got some dope from Ladd which he passed on). I gather from Ruth's note that you yourselves were quite disturbed for a period. Well you can imagine our reaction when every thing we read including the clippings that you sent in seemd to point to strike breaking action and one of our leading comrades involved in it. Then on top of it just a hasty word

Unfortunately this long delay and our misinformation has probably made our realtions with Lloyd and Tom a little more difficult. I hope Bill showed you the copy of the letter that I sent them. We have received no word from them. And while I gave them lots of latitude to understand that our information was sketchy no doubt they will put it all down to everyone else's but themselves' ignorance of trade union strategy.

What's the score? Is that lumberworkers job too tough for you...that instead of building you into a mass of muscles it it tearing you down ...or are we involved in some hot situations that tiedus up compeletely for the time.

At anyrate I hope that you can now break the long silence and that you can put a stick of dynamite under Bill so that we at least get some minutes and know that we are still alive and kicking out there.

As you can realize the election campaign in which I was the key figure, speaking at about 20 meetings and three times over the radio and attending to a lot of odds and ends that have to be attended to by someone who is free in the daytime, has pretty well upset N.C. contact and our routine work....we will be in the groove in a few weeks. There is one thing I should tell you while I think of it however. The SWP is hoping to arrange for Comrade Lang(author of Maritime and one of the leading trade unionists) to go up the coast within the next three or four months and call in on Vancouver. He will of course be anxious to meet with L and T. and I am sure that his stay there will go a long way in improving our realtions with them. I gather from your attendance report at the fraction meeting on the 11th that we are not getting much cooperation from them.

As i mentioned befroe we intend to get an internal bulletin out in the next two weeks. Todate it will contain an article on the election experiecnes of Toronto, a report of the situation in the party based on my tour, a report on the financial drive and I hope some documents from you and Murray. Murray is supposed to be working on a document on French Canada and you are supposed to be working on the trade union document in coordination with Tom and Lloyd. We will be informing the branches so that they can send anything in that they might like. How does it look with the trade union document?

Can the branch hold a public meeting shortly.? As you know we must try to make contact outside of our own personal circles...and it is a healthy experiecne for the brnach...build up speakers and give us an ocassion to bring contactsdown to the party..telling them that we do have the ambition at least of wanting to become a party..a public force. We could still hold a Lenin memorial the end of Jan week-end but that may be too close for us. At anyrate I hope we can hold one shorlty. We have aterrific banner with the heads of Lenin Trotsky, Marx and Engels on it that we would gladly send out. Don has bought some good labor records that he would also be happy to send on I am sure.

I am wondering if one of the reasons for the silence is that we have not found a proper division of labor in the branch. Too much being thrust on the shoulders of a few comrades. I see this matter came up with Stan who does not feel that he can handle the literature and do his t.u. work. Perhaps you have taken on too much. There is a tendency with the best comrades knowing that they can do the job best to take on too much work(you know Ruth and her comments about my indispensability complex). Of course the work has to be done but it is possible that we are neglecting Frank's development and one or two others including Lillian.

Hope this note finds you well and that you will be able to pick it up shortly

with warmest regards

Now Jan 66 Box 24 1947-49-UAN Attached to letter Jan 17, 1948 (?) B

Bill Whitney Angus McPhee Stan Stanton

Dear Reg----

I was just going over this letter for corrections when I received a letter from Bill with XX a copy of a XXXXXX letter that he sent to Angus. I have not yet had a chance to give it any real serious thought.

I am somewhat taken aback from Stan's request for leave of XXXXX absence , and Bill's comment that we are now retrenching...giving up the headquarters.

My impression is that it has all been quite a blow to Bill, Stan's request may have serious effects on Frank...I am wondering what will happen to Court.

I know that you must be laboring under considerable difficulties but I am sure that you Ruth, Ellaline, Bill, Idi can rally Frank XXX CharleyXX Cor and that we can hold the group together so that under more favourable conditions it will be able to go forward again. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX I am sure that we can come out of this unfortunate situation with solid and steeled ranks if our good core reacts quickly and shows the proper confidence and ability to carry on.

I hope we do not drop the headquarters at once. Give us a chance to talk it over and assess our strengh.

Will write tomorrow

with the firmest conviction that we do not need to retrench nand that we can hold the group

Ross

January 20, 1948

Dear Reg:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have just forwarded to Angus, Murray and Jean on recent developments in Vancouver.

I dont want to say much as I am waiting for your second instalment which I am sure takes up some of the suggestions that I am going to pose.

I suggest in this letter that we sho ld lay charges against Tom and Lloyd after withdrawing Lloyd's leave of absence as he has not met the temrs upon which it was granted.

I think that this is the best and only proper method of handling the case. We cannot let it drift any longer without imperilling the whole development of the branch...god knows these guys have done enough damage already. I am convinced that their threats to take this matter to the I.S. to the SWP etc are all crap., mererly an attempt on their part to justify their actions which they surely know are indefensible,,,,,the same holds true for their talk about the F.I. alright but Ross Dowson that is the whole trouble. At anyrate even if they had serious intnetions this woul be the best way in my opinion to handle the matter for then they will have to commit themselves on paper or at least before the branch and not in lavatoryies or hurried little conversations.

To withdraw the leave of absence is the first step;

Then prepare written charges, not on these absolutely slanderous and disloyal remarks that they have dropped here and there but their condict in the IWA and their relationship to our comrades there. They have refused to work with the caucus, they have not attended it or accepted its decisions , they are in political collaboration with no-members of the party without the authorization of the party The charges should be layed under Article VIII of the constitution.

The charges must be written out , the details are in that article. They should be in considerable detail with all the necessary proof. It is highly probable that they will [redacted] not appear at the trial...that's ok we should still go through with all the formalities ...it will be a good education for all the comrades and will show then just how [redacted] serious this party is when it comes to matters like this. We will have to make sure that all comrades are notified of this trial, even th those who may be drifting away under the atmosphere of this event.

All the above is a proposal of a line of action---what do you think of it. Have you any other ideas. This much I know,..we must come to grips with these two now and do the case up proper.

By the way , what is the score with Cort and Charley.

Will probably hear from you in the 3, o clock mail

Warmest regards

ross

January 30 l948

To the Vancouver Branch;

Dear Comrades;

We have been informed by the branch secretary that you would like full information on the affair that developed around the Stalinist hooligan attack against Comrade Clairmont during the Toronto civic elections.

On January 12 the Political Committee sent a circular letter on the events leading up to the attack to all Nationa1 Committee members. It has been suggested that this letter be released to the branch. The P.C. has agreed to do so and has instructed me to supplement it with a few observations and a report of recent developments.

The case finally came before the court on January 16. The charge was dismissed. The charge laid by Comrade Claimont was one of threats. The magistrate dismissed the charge "as there was no evidence of assault!" The crown laid no further charges as we had thought it might. It was obvious from the beginning of the court that the magistrate, the prosecuting crown attorney and the defending attorney (a former crown attorney) had settled the matter to their mutua1 agreement long before. The crown attorney went into court with absolutely no knowledge of the case. The law did not permit us to have our own lawyer. He had rebuffed our attempts to arrange a meeting to discuss the case and did not interfere in the conduct of the investigation in any manner whatsoever. The defending attorney broke into Comrade Clairmont's testimony before he could even begin to pose the evidence, and the magistrate dismissed the charge because there as no evidence to substantiate a charge that had never been laid. The case is therefore closed.

However from the short request for information, we detect some political opposition to the whole "business"!

You will note that the PC endorsed the Toronto branch decision to carry the case but did so with some hesitation. The basis of this hesitation however was solely the possibility that we might get entangled in a further charge laid by the Crown that the Stalinists had broken the electoral act.

The PC is by no means opposed to the use of the capitalist courts in the fight against Stalinist hooliganism in the labor movement.

The fight against Stalinist hooliganism, terror and assassination is a life and death struggle for our movement, which is its main object of attack, and for the entire working class. It is necessary to expose and fight against it on every possible occasion and with every available means—not only public meetings, protest leaflets, but the capitalist press, parliamentary committees and capitalist courts.

We of course would not want this case to serve as a precedent for the calling of the "cops" on every chance Stalinist attack against our membership. We will attempt to defend ourselves against hooligan attacks with our own forces to the best of our ability. We will attempt to rouse the entire working class to arms against Stalinist terrorism. But for an isolated comrade, in the

face of a hooligan attack and the possibility of its repetition, to fail to seek any and every protection at hand including the police would be to invite assault.

Leaflets, letters and delegations addressed to the workers and their organizations, at our present stage of development (our lack of integration in the mass organizations) and in the present period of disinterest in the labor movement, would have been of no real value. On the other hand one could hope to use a court case to expose Stalinist hooliganism to a broad strata of the workers and in passing expose their betrayal of labor political action.

It has been 1ong considered a grave offence by the labor movement for rival parties or factions to submit their quarrels to the bourgeois courts or to inform on one another. But hooligans and assassins have no right to appeal to this ethic.

This question is by no means new to our movement. It was discussed at some length in the Militant on March 29 by Comrade Cannon. Our attitude on this matter is in the best traditions at our movement.

When the Stalinists tried to make something of the fact that the Hearst press picked up his exposures of the Moscow Trials Trotsky wrote:

Let the various bigots who support Stalin-Vishinsky make what they can of this occurrence. I am not greatly moved. It is by no means a question of literary "collaboration" with Hearst. My task and that of my collaborators during these days was to launch into world circulation through all accessib1e channels the greatest possible number of facts and arguments against the executioners and thus attempt to stay their hand. If I shou1d have to post placards, warning the people of a cholera epidemic, I should equally utilize the walls of schools, churches, saloons, gambling houses and even worse estab1ishments."

Trotsky in 1936 and again in 1938 attempted to use the "robber" League of Nations to unmask the Stalin terror against the labor movement. He also attempted to use the Dies Committee, a completely reactionary committee, for revolutionary purposes.

To utilize these institutions to sound the alarm against Stalinism and Stalinist hooliganism... to prepare the ground for a real struggle with this poison that infects the labor movement. This struggle will only end with the expu1sion of Stalinism from the labor movement and the winning of the workers to the party of the socialist revolution.

Comradely

(signed) Ross Dowson

Ref: letter of Jan 20 to Reg[?] Found in 1948 - ~~Feb~~ Jan

Dear Reg:

I see no reason why Bill should not see this letter.

Have received a reply from Angus to the letter of the 20th. He agrees with line of action outlined. Have had no word form Montreal which appears to be in a bit of a dither with new recruits. Their silence I am quite sure signifies agreement. I think , as a matter of fact I am quite sure that the letter could be well considered an instruction to the branch. The only reason why I have not written to the branch is because it is not formal yet. If you and Bill are in agreement I think we should go ahead as outlined. The sooner the better I agree with Angus who says---[redacted] "This break if break there must be, must come quickly and cleanly before the affair contaminates the entire branch. The branch must even increase its activities during the next period"

Propose to put the document(the charges)in the bulletin if you can let me have it. As a matter of fact it would be well for the future education of the party that some on of you prepare a document on th significance of the expereince, wahts behind it etc. For Agus "the factors still don't add up".

will write later...hope we can write this off soon

warmest regards

Ross

- BC -

Fund in 1948 - Jan.

Dear Reg----

I was just going over this letter for corrections when I received a letter from Bill with XX a copy of a XXXXXX letter that he sent to Angus. I have not yet had a chance to give it any real serious thought.

I am somewhat taken aback from Stan's request for leave of XXXXXX absence , and Bill's comment that we are now retrenching...giving up the headquarters.

My impression is that it has all been quite a blow to Bill, Stan's request may have ser ous effects on Frank...I am wondering waht will happen to Court.

I know that you must be laboring under considerable difficulties but I am sure that you Ruth, Ellaline, Bill, Jdl can rally Frank XXX Charley XX Cort. and that we can hold the group together so that under more favourable conditions it will be able to go forward again. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX I am sure that we can come out of this unfortunate situation with solid and steeled ranks if our good core reacts quickly and shows the proper confidence and ability to carry on.

I hope we do not drop the headquarters at once. Give us a chance to talk it over and assess our strength.

Will write tomorrow

with the firmest conviction that we do not need to retrench and that we can hold the group

Ross

Leaflet of us and the world party

February 19 1945

Dear Reg;

I see that it is almost a month since I heard from you and I guess it is a considerable time longer since you have heard from me. I hope you have not been waiting for me to pick up your letters, for the next period I am afraid you are going to have to write as far more often than I you. I am having one hell of a time trying to keep up with everything. I no sooner had the last issue of the paper off my hands(mistakes and all) when of course I inherit a whole pile of material that was piling up when I was busy with the paper. Ever since then I have been wading through all the accumulated material. I have been trying to keep the comrades out of the office even though their help would be valuable so that we can handle the pile of renewals that are coming up with each issue. At the same time the Tronto comrades are putting on a limited membership drive. They hope to pull a couple of good people into the party and are going through the contact list with a fine tooth comb. On top of this two of our comrades are playing a prominent role in the UE strike at Rogers Electric here and Paddy is completely tied up in his local what with the coming CCL Ontario Convention etc. You can see everything is going along great guns.

I hope you received the batch of I.S. Internal Bulletins that I forwarded you a few weeks ago via airmail. There are two more to come but the only copies are in Murray's hands in Montreal. So far I have been only able to read three of them myself plus the one on the Russian question that appeared in the Fourth International. What do Tom Lloyd think of them? I am particularly interested to know your opinion of the Russian document. We intend to discuss it at the next P.C. meeting when we can get Paddy clear of the union for a while. My impression is that while generally politically sound, philosophically it is very loose and in this sense tends to lean over too much towards the revisionists...it tends to straddle the question as its formulations are not very sharp.

Have written the SWP to see if they intend to publish any of them and if so what ones. I certainly think the Statutes and the report of the 4th should be published and if they do not intend to do so I think we should try to rally our forces to do so. Will you send the bulletins back as soon as you three have gone through them as I would like to make a switch with you and Murray and send some to Angus.

In a recent letter Byron Johnson suggests that I should take up the matter of Town Meetings that are held in Vancouver [illegible]. He thinks that it is possible to have one of our comrades speak there. What do you think ?? From reports in the CCF News I gather that they often discuss matters of real importance. and they appear to draw a considerable number of speakers from the CCF. He suggests you as a speaker.

I have just sent Ellaine another batch of explanations. I sent her the letter dealing with the problem and asked her to turn it over to you at the next meeting. The Toronto comrades have been turning up some people who look like party material. I took time out to see one of them last night...a new who was in the CP in 1936. He was very friendly, gave us a donation of a couple of dollars and promised to try to make some of the forums. His wife is a real militant. Most of the names we have just put aside until we get further on with the rem-

owal work. Hope that the comrades are really grabbing hold of this work. Have not heard much from Elaine however there is a letter in here addressed to Paddy which might be from her. I am waiting till he gets around to open up.

We have badly missed the minutes of the branch meetings that you used to send us. No doubt you are very busy all the more so that you are now crammed into your role in me. I was all set to [illegible] over when I picked up the last issue of the B.C. Lumberworker and read the vicious attacks that the Stalinists have [illegible] levelled against Lloyd and the slate that he is on. I would like very much to get a picture of the character of the caucus that we appear to be in. What is its program? Or are we on a ticket with Isbury. I notice that the Stalinists try to lump us together with Isbury and Mitchell but when they have to be more specific they drop Lloyd out of the trinity. Lloyd did quite well in his local. Is there any literature around?

At the next meeting of the N. . members I wonder if you would take up the matter of the B.C. correspondent. I actually do not know what to say about Whitney. I know that he is very busy and all that but he just does not answer mail. This is much more serious actually than whether he was able to write or not write for the paper due to other pressure. Prior to going to press with the last issue I sent him an air-mail letter asking him if he could write an article on the situation in the IWA or on the coal miners strike. I asked him if he was unable to do so to immediately send me a letter via air mail telling me so....this would give me an opportunity to look elsewhere for material. If he could handle either one I told him not to bother replying to the letter but to mail the article to reach here by a certain date. We received no reply, kept expecting to receive the article and of course left space open for it...it never came. You can see that this situation puts the editor under greater strain than if we could expect nothing from the Coast for that issue. When Whitney does a job he does a very good one but to put out a paper you have to have a disciplined staff. While Borland did not have the political [illegible] experience of Whitney he was more reliable and with [illegible] that he could develop into something. Perhaps all Bill needs is a little shot in the arm from you. Or if his work is such perhaps we have someone else who can take the job on.

We received a book order from a O.A. Eliason, Box 653, Cranbrook, B.C. This time for Revolution Betrayed and In Defence of Marxism. I gather from this he must be a serious type. He has no sub but has ordered books previously. We have no one living near him unless Hoakes gets over there. You might put him on the itinerary of our proposed B.C. tour

There has been no word of the Freedom Train idea down here. As a matter of fact your remarks are the first I have seen on the subject. I suppose you knew that the CCL Coordinating committee met here in Toronto a few days ago. They held the white flag out again to the government hoping for a price roll back. The steel-workers have already undercut their demands by settling for 10 cents at International Harvester. The C.C.F. bureaucracy is hoping that the wage struggle will be broken on price cuts or unemployment. I suppose you read about the Rogers strike here. This is our sole point of concentration...we have two comrades in this strike, both stewards and picket captains. Of course the Stalinists dominate the strike and are playing a very cowardly role but our two comrades are gaining considerable prestige. They have a couple of good contacts who are reading our literature., one has attended some forum and we hope to get a couple of new members into the pot.

How did the discussion go on the Clairmont incident?

How did the comrades like the last issue of the paper? That is aside from the typographical errors which are all my fault and result from the fact that the print shop is a badly managed one and proofs are received always at the last moment when the press is waiting etc. I think our job on the Communist Manifesto is better than the Militants'. There is a lot more guts in it of course since it is a monthly but we tried to keep the appearance of a newsy paper.

Speaking of the Communist Manifesto. Is the branch intending to hold a public meeting on the centenary? I do not think our past experiences with mass meetings should deter us. We have to hold open meetings in the name of the party to keep alive. It is extremely difficult to recruit persons who are already very close to us if as a party we do not have some open party life. I think too that we are obliged to hold a meeting to honour this event. The Toronto branch did not holds theirs yet as they are planning to hold the same meeting a week or so later in Hamilton sometime in March. At present the branch holds a forum and a study class alternate Sunday evenings. What is the situation with a headquarters? It is still very bad here. The Branch has been looking for larger space with out success. Is it not possible to hold a class in someone's home for the next two months to tie up some of the work that the comrades have been doing this past fall and winter.

hoping to hear from you very shortly

comradely

Ross Dowson

March 23 1948

(VAN)

Dear Lloyd;

Glad to hear that you will be albe to give us some material for the next issue of the paper. We are badly in need of some B.C. coverage to give the paper a national balance. The papwr will be lablled Mid April and it will be coming off the press early in that month We will need to have your copy in by the 9th of the month at the very latest. I hope that catches the elections.

I see from the Lumberworker that the Stalinists have toned down their attack a bit. We are anxiously looking forward to see the results of the work of the 217 caucus. I would imagine we should do well there as we are able to carry on a campign whereas the incumbents have every advantage in the outside points through their control of the paper and the entire apparatus. [redacted] How about dropping a copy of the program you distributed inot an envelop and addressing it to us. We would like to see it very much. Thanks for the information on the Alsbury caucus etc. I never did quite get that straight. Now I gahter that the Alsbury caucus is pretty well limited ot Local 1-357 whereas we are limited to local 217. Has Alsbury ever attempted to use the CCF as a basis for spreading his caucus influence and making connections with [redacted] elelemnets in other locals.

[redacted] in your letter you mention in passing that the IPP is out [redacted] with a super-leftist policy in the IWA approaching a dangerous stage of adventurism. I wonder if you could give us more on this. There has been no development of this king down here. Not even the slightest sign. At the Rogers strike they played a completely cowardly line which won the immediate acclaim of the CCF and orthodox trade union bureaucrats. In so far as the wage struggle is concerned they are trailing everynoe else. I suppose you read about the line they took at the recent Confederation of Labor Convention held here on the question of CCF endorsation. While they have broke from thr Liberal-Labor Coalition idea and are supporting the CCF in the trade unions here they seem to be making a bit of a retreat trying to find friends for protection from the red-baiting drive...and the hysteria that the capitalist press is trying to whip up over the Czech situation. The other night only seven of their caucus of about thirty at the Toronto Labor Council voted to reject an executive motion to give no funds to the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Organization. Glancing through the Lumberworker I have noticed no reffection of an adventurisitic ;policy.

The P.C. discussed the problem of a B.C. correspondent and has agreed to accept your recommendation. We will get in touch with Bill about the next issue to see if vthere is anything besides the IWA situation that needs to be covered.

In so far as your suggestion that we revert to a monthly for the next period I think that is pretty well covered in the mimutes. The next minutes will give us an idea of thr other comrades opinions. Personally I do not think much of the idea of periodical bulletins. I do not think we would put out many as it is a considerable job. To have them printed is quite expensive. To mimeograph them is far from satisfactory. The owkrers expect printed materail. Any quantity would be expensive as we would have no second class mailing rights on them, and to cover L.C. subscribers would be expensive on this basis alongside the cost of envelopes etc. I do not see why we should do it, why we cannot continue as before. If we cannot for financial reasons in my opinion it would be better to miss the odd issue now and then rahter than to write the twice monthly off the books for a [redacted] year.

It is unfortunate that the bulletins came so late and in such limited numbers.

It would have been much better if we had a plenty of the documents so that all could study them at their leisure however I do not see that it means that we are not going to have a proper discussion. Three of the documents and two of them are the most important have already appeared in the Fourth International available to any comrade. I would suggest that the branch appoint a reporter to present the meat of the most important documents other than these three to the branch for discussion. I can well imagine that the I.S. has extremely limited facilities, I know that the financial situation has compelled them to cut the staff dangerously. I am sure that they are doing their very best to get the material out and into the hands of the various sections. I was hoping that the American party would be able to reproduce the documents in an internal bulletin but it seems that they are unable to do other than what they have done.

I gather from Reg that there was quite a storm about the situation in the Vancouver branch. I do not understand it. All it can do is undermine the discipline of the party. Does anyone doubt that the I.S. is doing its best. Does anyone accuse the international leadership of purposely holding the material up. I know we would like to publish the material but I know too that we just havent got the staff to do so. The most important documentsa are published. We here in Canada have little to complain about. We do so little , compared with what the European comrades do and under waht conditions they do it. I for one am continually amazed by what the I.S. manges to get done and the leader ship that they are giving to the various sections.

You will note that there was considerable discussion on the Clairmont case again in the light of the branch document. I was hoping that we would get some material that would be valueable to put into the internal bulletin to educate the party. However it seems to me that the meat of the document is merely an expansion of what most of if not all of us realize..that comrade lairmont went to the police without consultation with the party and that [illegible] the assault arose around his protest that the Stalinists were breaking the electoral act.(which we have no interest in defending) I thought this was all clear in the first document. The fact was that he was assaulted by persons who were re cognized by a prominent Stalinist leader as his election workers. We wanted to use the case to expose Stalinist hooliganism. We had devised a mechanism to go no further(contempt of court if the electoral charge came up). I suppose one could let the matter drop here. However in thinking over the situation and from swatches of correspondence I gathered that there is or was a principled opposition to using the courts against the Stalinsts. Looking backwards I am of the opinion that we should have laid charges against Rush and Mickleburgh last May . I would like to know the opinion of the comrades on this, for this case is a clear one, and doesn't involve the the problem of handling that the Calirmont case would.

I would like to make the record stright on the lairmont case on one point. The branch document seems to me to attempt to point out that the P.C. was negligent in the Clairmont case and was dishonest in its second letter. "that the P.C. has merely tried to rationalize the action"...The references and precedents cited in the National Secretary's letter additionally consolidates our characterization. The effort is made to throw these precedents around the case like a cloak". I for one don't understand this attitude. We may disagree with one another, perhaps the P.C. amy even be wrong but does this make it dishonest, does this make us scoundrels who make an effort to rationalize the action. Well perhaps I just don't understand this type of polemic.

"ow is the sub renewal work coming along. The Toronto branch has just about completed their work. Last Sunday the comrades picked up 15 renewals. Wiseton is also doing a very

good job. I suppose you will notice that when the next paper comes out and the expired plates are pulled we will have a mere hadful of subs in Vancouver. So far we have recieved only three or four renweals from the whole batch of about three hundred that have expired in the past two months. Off-hand I cannot think of any work that is more important than getting renewals. Ieam sure that there are some good contacts amongst all these persons who have been seeing our paper in the past 6 months, [redacted] Surely Ellaine is not holding back renweals What's the score?

Anxious to know what "the other question that has arisen in our branch " is that you promised to write about .

Warmest regards

Ross

April 15 1948

Dear Reg;

I am enclosing a letter for Stan Stanton and the copy of the article that he submitted for the last issue of the paper. I think it is an excelaent job and sincerely hope you can obtain many more contributions from him.

I am not going to be able to say a great deal in this letter I want to get it off so that you will be able to let us know waht we are going to receive , if anything from Vancouver for this issue.

The deadline ~~XXXX~~ for this issue will be ; material here on Tuesday morning April 20th. It has to be as we must have the paper off the press by Friday afternoon April 23 to be sure you will have those 2,000 copies in your hands by May first. We have to allow for any possible breakdown etc. ~~XXXX~~ The print shop does not work Saturday it takes them a whole day to make up.

I hope you can give us something. We are having an editorial board meeting on Saturday where we will discuss what will go nito the next issue but I cannot wait till then as you would obviously fing it impossible to contribute anything on such short notice.

Since we are going into not the twice monthly this issue we need some popular material. I believe we could do with a red hot article o on taxes. It seems to me to be a natural for Vancouver in view of the new sales tax. There is alos now the ~~XXX~~ effect of the freight increase on the cost of living particlarly in the West.(Alt ouhg we are having an article on this but directed towards the solution of the railway problem .....we wont touch much on the effect of the new increaseo n living standards.) I dont know waht material you have on hand. It could either be approached from the point of view of taxes and our t transitional program in answer to the assault on the workers...or it could be handled from the point of view of the increase in the cost of living and the sliding scale of wages. What do you think...fine.

We got the material on the speakers at your May Day meeting from Ellaline. We will carry the ad in the next issue in conjunction with the Toronto branch ad. Yes! we are publishing a May Day manifesto in the coming issue. Murray is writing it. We will increase the press run the 2,000 that you order and will have them in your hands for sure in time for the May Day

Just a word on ~~XXXXX~~ four items that we received for the last issue of the paper. You know of course that we used two of them...the IWA sotry that was first rate and the Vancouver Labor Council meeting. The other two we did not have room for. For one thing they are small and deal with rather unimportant points. I am sending the May Day one back as it might be a good idea if there is anything new to amplify it and send it in for the next issue if it contains some meat.

I would like to say a few words on the IWA Local 1-217 meeting. I saw the report of this episode in the B.C. Lumberworker. Personally I did not think that the insertion of the clause that Pritchett objected to was very good trade union tactics.

The motion is excellnt ,the fact that we are the movers of such a motion could only impress the rank and file that we are good trade union militants. The insertion of the clause detracts from this impression. and tends to make the motion appear to be merely a manoeuver to provide us with an opportunity to take a snap at the Stalinists. To my mind this type of manoeuver only plays into the hands of the Stalinists who are trying to isolate us from the rank and file and only makes it look as if we are a group of individuals in the union with a private axe to grind. When Pritchett or any of the Stalinists dare to come out in favour of the resolution against speed up I would certainly through all that that clause had in it and more at them from the floor and expose the hypocricy of their support but I do not think it was a good idea to put it into the resolution myself.

Be that as it may...there are a couple of other things in the article as it now stands which I do not think are any to well formulated You say "Pritchett upheld the necessity of "Class alliances to defeat fascism"....and that is all. This is sort of thrown in here and could possibly..I think would probably be misunderstood. After all we are in favour of class alliances to defeat fascism.... alliance with the petty bourgeoisie on the basis ofamilitant class struggle prgram against fascism. Of course I know what you mean.

You say "Tom Bradley also pointed out that there is a danger that when the Third World War takes place the...." We do not by any means conceed that the Thirld World War will take place. If one already conceeds a position,it is not possible to lead forces to win it.

You say...."Pritchett's war policy being carried over into the peace caused him to attempt to send..." This almost makes it appear as if Pritchett just got into a rut...that he does not follow a conscious line that is based on the needs of the Stalin bureaucracy.

I see that it is getting rahter late. I want to get this off into the air tonight so I will close for now and write you tommorro on the manyother matters that have been unanswered.

Hope you think that my idea for the next article is a good one and one you or someoneelse has time to handle. Perhaps there is something much better that you want to send in for this issue. Will you let me know waht yourdecsion is in the next mail. This will enable us to make any adjustments in our plans. Also if you cannot send any thing let me know at once.

Comradely

Ross

April 15 1948

Dear Stan;

Thanks very much for your excellent contribution to the last issue of the paper. Just what the doctor ordered. It arrived here just in time for me to type it out re-arrange it a trifle and take it up to the printer. Possibly you have not yet received the apper. However there was an unforseen hitch in that the XXX linotyper got thrown in the local jail for drunkenass. While we were all ready to receive it on Friday they were unable to get it through the presses until Monday.

I am enclosing the copy as you forwarded it and I hope you will have time to go through it XXXXXXXXXXXXXX and compare it with my version. I don't pretend to be any expert but I believe I have improved it a bit. I would be pleased to discuss any part of the changes with you if you think it necessary.

I would like to make a couple of comments on it which I hope will explain the changes to your satisfaction. First how do you like the name Sid Stark? If it suits you ok will you take it as your own and any material you send in if you do not want you own name to appear on it put Sid Stark at the top.

It was hardly the article that we expected. I was looking for something on the Wage Scale Conference but also something on the electoral struggle just over. I think the comrades in the IWA missed an opportunity to put forward the issues of the election and a real defence against the Stalinist attack on Lloyd in particlar. I think that Lloyd XXX Tom and you could have put the pages of Labor Challenge to good use and circ lated it around the more advanced elements in the local. However such an article would have been best in the previous issue.

However that is all water under the bridge. This article is an excellent one---it has snap, lots of onXXthe spot color, gives as an opportunity to put forward our most important trade union demand, its positive.

You will note that I pulled the decisions of the conference on wages etc up to the top as they are of great importance to our readers and give us a chance to give a picture of the militancy of the conferecbe which discussed the sliding scale. This gave us a chance to reveal that we stood solidly behind these decisions and put our anti-Stalinism in its right perspective. You will also note that I expanded just XXh waht the sliding scale is through Lloyd. While we dont have many ocassional readers it is always a good idea if possible to take a little for granted as one can....possibly some persons on reading the article would not get a clear picture of waht this sliding scale was all about. It was all the more necessary to do this as we gave quite a bit of space to the arguments of the opposition.

I particularly wanted to answer that argument that the sliding svale recognized present wages, that is in temrs of real wages. I cut out "In rebuttal to this line of argumentation the oppostionist delegates pointed out that it is impossible for the workers as a claass to improve their living standards under capitalism." This is a very unfortunate formulation. Possibly you did not have achance to reread

the article before sending it. This statement is completely sectarian and is of course in absolute contradiction to the whole meaning and spirit of the transitional program and the slidin, scale itslef. While it is true that no lasting or fundamental gains can be made within the frame work of capitlaism it is nonetheless necessary to take the workers inot struggle which will educate them and prepare them for the socialist revolution. The workers will only be trained for the destruction of capitlaism through struggle around demands that meet their most pressing needs, that meet them at their present levle of politcal consciousness and lead them forward. These demands must of course be revolutionary in their content

You sepculations on the LPP's future attitude to the sliding scale are interesting but I do not think that they add anything to the article. If anything they would tend to confuse our readers. They pose a whole new question---just waht are these Stalinists? They also tend to make the present Stalinist oppostion appear to be rather accidental, not at all so bad and thereby blunt the whole character of the article. At anyrate I do not see that they have any particlar value.

I am clearing this letter through Reg who I understand is the Labor Challenge coresspondent. We think that it is a good idea for all comrades in Vancouver who write for the aper to clear their artciles through Reg. In this way we can get another comrades opinion on the material. This is very important as there is always a possiblity that someone else knows of some developments that the writer is unawre of There is a greater danger of error all around...and of course being so distant from the scene it is difficult for us to evaluate the material. Inaldently we always follow this practice down here. I never send an article into the printer without letting another responsible comrade give his opinion on it. We thin this is a good practice.

I dont know who is going to handle it but we are looking for a steady stream of at least one article per issue from Vancouver in the future. I hope you can kick in your bit for it seems to me that you have real journalisitc talents

Comradely

Ross Dowson

April 30 1948 ✓

(Britannia Beach BC)

Dear Comrade Bill;

A considerable length of time has passed by since we last heard from you, to be more precise almost 4 months, I hope this note find you and tyour family well and that it is just a whole host of new and favourable opportunities that have tied you up and prevented your writing.

We have been more than tied up with the paper and other routine party business. Possibly you knew that I am the only persons who is now devoting full time to party work. It seems to be just about all we can do to keep up with the paper and correspondence that must be answered.

I hope you have been receiving the ocassional mail we have been forwarding you...the U.S. internal bulletins and the sub campaign material in particlar. How do you think we will be able to do in XXXXX this years campaign? I am hoping thatbyou will be able to do much better than the 10 quota. Probably you know from the tapes that we have been forwarding that there is now only one other subscriber than yourself in Britannia Beach.....that is E. Malm.

We certainly hope that you will be able to renew these subs and in the process pick up some more. Our experience tells us that the fact that a person has not renewed his sub means very little. For some unknown reason workers expect us to call on them to get the renewal and to talk things over with them. Many of our expirationsas is the case with some of yours are the subscriptionsof persons who are extremely close to us. Many of them gave us good donations in the last campaign. But strange to say they do not get down to renewing...they seem to expect us to XXXXXXXXXX remember to sort out their names and to carry them until we see them again.

Were you able to get inot the special meeting that the Vancouver branch held a month or so ago. I gathered from coresspondence that some of the out of town comrades were able to attend. The comrades are putting quite a bit of owrk into their May Day meeting. I hope you can get inot it, as I gather from Tom that they have hadlittle contact with you for sometime now.

Have you ever been able to take Malm or any other of your contacts into see the Vancouver comrades. It might bring them much closer to us by showing them that we have a functioning group in Vancouver and some capable comrades. You might write Bill Whitney who is the new secretary and find out when Dan Roberts from the South is coming up. I gather that a group of U.S. comrades are d dropping inot Vancouver for a week-end of discussion. Possibly they may hold a public meeting and a social to which we could bring your contacts.

What is new in the Britannia local of the Mine Mill and Smelters? Has the red baiting had any effect. On the basis of the red baiting drive and discontent with the Stalinist leadership of the UE the CCF

is organizing a province wide caucus. They approached one of our comrades who is a key-man at the Rogers plant but with no explanation suffdenly dropped him. It is too early yet to see waht kind of headway they are making. I am wondering if their is any crystallization of the opposition elements in the local, particualrly since the Mine Mill is at present bearing the biggest brunt of the red baiting drive which is being compleeltly backed up by the CCL bureaucrats.

While the whole campaign is completely reactionary in generating it the capitlaists do in passing give a little spurt to the confidence of any opposition tendencies within a local of unions controlled by Stalinists. The while atmosphere rasses the whole matter of leadership and autommatically the question of program in the minds of all workers. In this sense it gives us opportunities to present our ideas. The Stalinists are also forced to find allies in the union [illegible] against the red-baiters who are imperilling the very future of the union and this in turn may cause them to give us who they cannot help but recognize as the best unionists a little more lattitude to put forward our ideas. [illegible] It seems to me that their are new avenues permitting us to reach sTalinist workers opened up these days.

How about sitting down at the next opportunity that presents itself and dropping us a line...letting us know what is new in the union and waht the general picture for party work appears to be. We are looking forward to receiving a letter from you shortly

comradely

Ross Dowson

May 1 1948

Dear Reg;

Received your letter detailing the shipment of the 2000 May issues on Monday. They had already been shipped the Friday night as per schedule. I informed Killaline by air mail that they were coming as the bulk of them were adressed to her home. There can be little doubt that you got them in good time since we were able to get the paper off on Friday giving a full week for delivery.

By coincidence I put in this issues May Day Meetings ad that they were being held under the auspices of the RWP.I have taken sort o of for granted that since the paper is our official organ anyone would understand that meetings advertised are RWP meetings. However perhaps your point is well taken. We will try to remember to put in this line after this.

I say by coincidence because any ideas that comrades have for the paper, any changes etc. all have to be in on the specified dead line or nothing can be done about them. On that last issue the dead line was Mondaythe 19th. The absolute deadline Tuesday. The paper is locked up on Thursday and run off all day Friday. So you can see we have a very rigid schedule that has to be met. If we had a staff we could perhaps be more flexible and if we had some real newspapermen and were in a big shop...owever this as they are do not permit much room for maneuver.

The new sub cards will be off next week. I will send them to your address as soon as we get them.

Now that you have got all the robes of the office of Vancbuver correspondent I hope the comrades all understand that everything should be cleared through you. I intend to write Tom in a day or so and will take up the matter of those contributions.

It is very good that comrades want to send in material for the paper particularly about their own activities but unfortunately a paper such as ours cannot operate on this baisis. For one thing the comrades will have to understand that our paper is not a newspaper but a compromise between a newspaper and a theoretical organ. Coming out as it does only twice a month and sometimes only once a month in a period when so much is happening of significance to our readers ti has to be really planned. We have a list of articles that should go inot the paper the length of an arm. In the last issue of the paper there is an article on the Indo-Chinese comrades. It is a condensation of 5 articles that appeared in the Militant.

Comrades shouldn't be suprised when t eir unsolicited material does not get inot the paper. At the editorial meeting we plan the paper down to every last inch of copy. To get unsolicited material in the paper requires the dropping of other material...it has to be good... it has to be important. The McAuslane clipping was very good in my opinion and worth our dropping other planned material because it proved in a very clear way the complete bankruptcy of the trade ulon leadershi p

The itme about Lloyd on the red baiting was also good as we are trying to put our comrades in the lime-light. The IWA article was tops as it showed us in action and put forward one of the most important of our trade union demands.

But usually we have no room for the little items such as Tom and Killaline sent in. If they are connected with something else we can put them inot another article. But if you print thses little items it turns your paper into a hodge podge collection of odd bits ofvinformation, interesting in themselves but of no great moment. in the general run of things.

But despite the fact that we are not a newspaper we have to try and keep up the appearance of such. We have to take the news and drwa its lessons...this means quite a selective process. We had to have an article from B.C. for the last issue, particularly since you were gdoing a 2000 peice distribution. In my opinion we should wherever possible have an article in each issue from Montreal and Vancouver.

For the last issue the tax question was a natural. It subsequently turned out that the anti-labor drive wes also a natural taking it up from the point of view of the new leauses tacked ohto Bill 39 and the rebuff that the lobby received.

I see that you did not get my letter suggesting the tax article until Monday the 19th and the deadline was the 20th. This difficulty arose from the ball up of rushing the May Day issue through extra early.

The best way to approach this question of assignments in my opinion is for you to look over the field and to write us waht you think would be good material to cover for the coming issue. On the baisis of waht appears to be necessary to have in this issue from this end then we can give you the go-ahead sign.

The final dead line(material here in the office) for this issue will be May 11. What do you think you have out there and how much space do you need.

One thing we would like to get is a short report of your meeting on May 2. We intend to write up an article on how the RWP celebrated May day covering both the Toronto and Vancouver meeting and the plans that we had made to hold one in Montreal and the fact that the police revented it.

The editorial board meeting is taking place on the 6th. I would be good if we had an idea waht you think should go in from B.C. prior to that so you can know well before the week-end.

All the above has to do with new-items. If any of the comrades have any theoretidal materila they would like put inot the paper why of course we have much more time to talk it over

comradely

Ross

May 4 1948

To the Vancouver branch;
Dear Comrades;

In reply to your March 4 request for "information re the reason for the crippling delay in receiving documents pertinent to the Wrold Congress and request that a strong protest be entered to parties responsible".

The set of documents that have been circulated through the Vancouver branch is one of two sets received from the International Secretariat. They were forwarded to the branch almost immediately upon their receipt at the National Office.

The fact that they have been delayed and are in small numbers insufficient for proper circulation does not in our opinion require apologies nore explanations so much as it requires on the part of all comrades an understanding of the collosal difficulties that confront our movement internationally and above all on the European continent.

The material in the recent bulletins was for the most party only received a short while ago from the contributors or was documentation which the I.S. will defend at the Wrold Conference. The I.S. which is terribly understaffed due to the financial poverty of our movement is not responsible for supplying sufficient numbers of documents for satisfactory discussion in each section. It has put the material into the hands of the leading bodies of over 30 sections. Unfortunately objective conditions prevented the National Office from mimeographing the material for broad party circualtion. It appears that the American comrades whom we were hoping would be able to handle the material in their bulletin were also unable to do so.

But the recent documents dont even constitute a fraction of the material that has been circulated preparatory to the World Conference. Two of the most important documents have been available in the Nov-Dec. issue of the F.I. The discussion has been going on for well over a year in the American party bulletin which is widely distributed here and in the pages of the F.I. All branches and members at large were informed many months ago that a pre-convention discussion period was opened and some branches have accordingly been devoting considerable time to discussion of the most important issues.

It seems clear to us that despite minor difficulties there has never in the entire history of the international labor movement been a more thorough and democratic pre-conference discussion.

We have just received word that our Second World Congress has just concluded its three weeks long sessions in Paris. Approximately 50 delegates representing 22 organizations of the Fourth International and coming from 19 different countries took part. It was the most representative international gathering so far organized by the world Trotskyist movment. Furtehr information including important documents will be reported in coming issues of our press.

comradely

R. Dowson

May 4 1948

Dear Tom; Bradley (VAN.)

Very sorry that the pressure of other work has prevented me from answering your letter dated April 13 before now.

Anxiosuly waiting to hear how we made out with the May Day meeting. I was hoping Reg had the report in this morning's mail. I have asked him to see that we get one for the coming issue of the paper. I hope the paper got a good reception. I think it was a pretty well rounded issue. We purposely made it so in view of the extra large distribution you were puting on.

Our plans to hold one in montreal fizzled when the police forced the proprietor to cancle our hall reservation. At any rate we got a fair amount of publicity in the Montreal press. I was booked to speak and Jean has sent clippings from two different papers reporting the plan to hold the meeting and one paper reporting its cancellation. We may try to hold street corner meetings down there this summer in defiance of the police.. Our meeting wasn't so spectacular. Our main speaker wasn't abel to make it and I tried to sub for him. We held a street corner ~~XXXXX~~ meeting on May first where we sold a fair number of papers but it was too chilly to build up and hold a crowd.

Havent heard from anyone about sub work yet but it is still too early. Toronto held a rally onSaturday the first and will be Holding two a week until June 15. First rally agreeably suprised me. I got 9 subs and didn't even get a wisp of red-baiting.

Bill is really getting down to business with the minutes. They are arriving quite regularly. Reg seems to have really taken hold of the press job so perhaps the change is all for the best ~~XXXXXXX~~ more than one way.

Perhaps some of the difficulties that you have felt you have been having with Reg over waht I wrote to him and waht is branch material are partly my falt. Then again it seems to me that some difficulty like this is bound to arise.

Direct N.O. to branch correspondence is comparatively rare. It would be normally limited to correspondence on campaigns, finances and on occassion a poltcal clarification of some issue that has come up in the branch and which the N.C. might like to make an official statement.om.

In the course of party work on the basis of correspondence from the branches and comrades tere are many little items that crop up but are not worthy of official correspondence addressed to the branch. I do not think that the National secretary can be limited to official correspondence. There are times when I like to make a few suggestions

or advance an ides to leading and responsible comrades in a branch but to make such things t e subject of official correspondence would magnify their importance and if theri was disagreement in the branch cause no end of little crisis and difficulties

Sometimes Reg has saked a question about some matter possibly on behalf of the branch and then again perhaps merely as a leading comrade for his own information. ..or the infnomation of the executive. I have answered these questions in the course of a longer letter with much other material which is of no immedaite importance to the branch. Yes I can see where this might on occassion cause confusion.

I heve tried to avoid this by markingplainly all official correspondence addressed to the branch with the head. ..To all branches and members at large or if it is going only to the Vancouver branch... To the Vancouver branch..Dear comrades.

I do not see how this mehtod of correspondence between the National Secretary and the branch secretary can be otherwise. My correspondence certainly is not personal in the usual sense of the term but this method of correspondence permits the N.C. to intervene in the live of the branches without so to speak acutally butting in ...that is making suggestions throught the medium of the secretary without giving directives or orders. Thinking it over this is the way that the SWP must operate. We get all N.C. and branch material. ..everything that goes out to party branches. Why there is month after month that goes by without a special letter going to the branches. If you waited to correspond on an offical basis only why all contact with the branches and their life would be lost. I can only gather that the Organizational secretary carries on a running correspondence with the various branch secreatries or more probalby in some cases with the party branch organizer.

It is true that an unscupulous National Secretary might in this way start the baisis of an unprincipled personal contact clique in the pqrty. That is if he was of this character and the branch secretaries were also. However I think this risk is small and I don't see anyway of getting around the need for this more informal contact with the branches through the secreatary ...who after all has been given a post of trust.

I thought that the document on Harry's case was the product of Reg's pen. ...and I didn't think that this could possibly be the way that the branch wanted it. A fantastic document. Reg often does not seem to understand what he writes. It is really a vicous and attack on the P.C. and totally devoid of any political ideas. It dismisses the P.C. position that supports the use of the capitalist courts by revolutionists as being solely motivated by attempts to whitewash a comrades errors. and doesn't come to grips with the real problem at all. The whole question is an extremely important one and one that will be coming up again and again. From remarks that Reg made in his letters hevtakes or did take the sectarian position of principled opposition to the use of capitalist courts. It is the P.C.'s position that we all erred in the failure to use the courts against the Stalinst leaders after the last May Day attack.

Has this whole question been gone over to everyones satisfaction? I do not think we should hush it down. I think there is an important question involved here that should be thorowly aired in a comradely intelligent manner. That is why I suggest that if some comrades are principledly opposeed to use of the courts it would be good for the party to carry the discussion inot the internal bulletin.

It seems as if that storm that burst over differences on the Bill 39 fight is going to be compeetely passed over without our having an opportunity to what was behind it all. Bill Whitney who was struck off to write the document has never sent it in....In some ways I think it is too bad for this is how the party grows politically.

It is good to see that the educational work is getting down onto a firm basis and that we will be able to clear up some of those difficulties with Stanton.

Reg in his last letter informed me that those two or three small contributions that were sent in for the last issue of the peper came in from Allaline and yourself. I sent them back to Reg with comments as I thought that they had come from him. I have sent him a long letter explaining that it is necessary that the comrades clear all news items through him as he knows the deadline how much space there is available in the paper and what we want in general for that issue. Feature material which will not get dated of course can be sent in by any comrade.

Thanks for the clipping from the Lumberworker. We did not put the story on the episode in the paper as we di not have room for it. We already had the IWA Wage Scale Conference article and the report of Lloyd's job at the Council on the Robinson affaire. Our paper is very tight if we receive all assignments. We have little room for small a ticles...we like to use Trade union notes for the one and two page material but we had to carry the Stelco settlement story.

However that wasn't the only reason for its non-publication. IEven if we had had the room I think we would have had to make some extensive changes to say the least.

Here is what I said in the letter sent to Reg;

"I would like to say a few words on the IWA Local 1-217 meeting I saw the report of this episode in the Lumberworker. Personally I do not think that the insertion of the clause that Pritchett objected to was very good trade union tactics.

"The motion is ecellent, the fact that we are the movers of such a motion could only impress the rank and file that we are good trade union militants. The insertion of the clause detracts from this impression and tends to make the motion appear to be merely a manoeuver to provide us with an opportunity to take a snap at the Stalinists. To my mind this type of maneuver only plays into the hands of the Stalinists who are trying to isolate us from the rank and file.and only makes it look as if we are a group of individuals in the union with a private axe to grind. When Pritchett or any of the Stalinists dare to come out in favour of the resolution against speed-up I would certainly throw all that that cluase had in it and more at them from the floor and expose the hypocricy of their support but I do not think it

was a good idea to put it into the resolution itself.

"Be that as it may....there are a couple of other things in the article as it now stands which I do not think are any too well formulated. You say "Pritchett upheld the necessity of "Class alliances to defeat fascism"...and that is all. This is sort of thrown in here and could possibly a d I think would probably be misunderstood. After all we are in favor of class alliances to defeat fascism...al alliances with the petty bourgeoisie on the basis of a militant class struggle program against fascism...of course I know what you mean.

"You say "Tom Bradely also pointed out that there is a danger that when the Third World War takes place the....." We do not by any means concede that the Third Wrold War will take place. If one already concedes a position, it is not possible to lead forces to win it.

"You say..."Pritchett's war policy being carried over into the peace caused him to attempt to send..." This almost makes it appear as if Pritchett just got inot a rut ...that he does not follow a conscious line that is based on the needs of the Stalin bureaucracy. "

I have typed this all out as I figure Reg might mention it too you and possibly you might get a wrong impression. Sorry that I did not know it came from you in the first place. Perhaps we can have a further discussion on the material.

Would you keep in touch with Reg as too what you think should come in for the paper. Reg doesn't seem to have yet developed a news sense. He worte us that he would haven othing for the last issue as there was nothing coming off aof any importance. We wrote the Pax article from here. He casually slipped in the clipping of McAuslane's Calagary speech and said nothing about the new ammendments to Bill 39. We want something for every issue. If everything goes through his hands he can let us know waht the situation looks like in order to give us time to make any changes that might be necessary.

In his last letter Reg took up the matter of party policy on the comming elections. We had intended to say something in the May issue but decided to leave it over and make it the lead in the next issue..I assume Reg's remerks are the general opinion of the Vancouver N.C. members. I am drawing up a statment tonightand what is left of the afternoon. I hope to be able to get it out and in the mail by noon tomorrow for your approval .I do not think it is possible for us to run any candidates here. We still owe 160 bucks for the Toronto elections and we cannot afford to tie up the Toronto branch in election bouts. The mayoralty costs nothing for deposit receives more publicity and rolls up a bigger vote . I certainly think that if a provincial election is called in B.C. that we should certainly try to run someone.I understand it costs nothing and after all we have never run out there yet.

Sorry to hear that you and Tom are under the doctor's care I hope your shoulder is notbas bad as it sounds.

Incidently there is a letter in the Lumberworkers of april 21 from a Toronto local. I wonder if you have any information on the situation. Jean would like us to check into it whichwe are certainly going to do...but do you by chance khow anything. Comradely Ross

May 20 1948

Dear Reg:

Hope you have received the last issue of the paper by now. It was mailed Friday night May 14 but it seems to have been held up somehow. It was not delivered until May 19 here in Toronto. ...hope the Vancouver mailing was not held up at all. If it happens again we will have to make some enquiries.

Well if you havent you soon will see that we used both items. ....although it is hard to use that term in theca·e of the May Day article.

Ruth did the job on the B.C. anti-labor law rally. ...so I wont attemt to touch on all the various little changes. I gather that it was a little too long so some of it was cut....this is a good position for you to put us into. I usuallly write my articles with only a general concern to the legth and then go through them to bring them down to the allotted size. It makes for a tighter article. You no doubt noticed that we inserted a considerable amount of copy on the actual clauses of the bill that the meeting was called to discuss. This is necessary as we have never said anything except a few lines in the last issue about the revisions. An then of course even if we ha d said considerable in the previous issue we would have had to review some of it to correctly place the article .....so our readers understand waht the meeting is all about and the importance and waht is behind the various remarks of the speakers.

We had to expand that bit about defence funds in order to make what our comrades had to say comprehensible to the readers...The quotes that you had on Bruce and other were excellent and really hop up the article. We dropped the reference by Tom to the CLDL. Most workers do not know anything about the old CLDL. Many others associate it with Stalinism so I think that the gesdrande is of doubtful value. On the whole I think that the article is very good.

With regards to the May Day meeting. What I really wanted was some local color that would be useful to put inot a composite article on our May Day meetings. This article is extremely schalarly and not at all like your useal stuff which has snap and color. There are words and constructions whish are never used in ordinary speech. There is a very good book that all our comrade should read called "The Art of Plain Talk by Rudolf Flesch" I think you should be able to get it at the local library. If you cant I will send you our copy. A very small book but a terrific study of words and structure. It's really scientific. A standard sentence he says must be 17 words. When a sentence gets up to 21 words it is fairly difficult and less easily understood. He has determined the number of afflixes that are permissible and the number of personal references that should be used to make material colorful easily read and understood.

There are too many unusual words in the May Day article...and too many empty words or grammatical gadgets. I think Flesch would call the type of writing in the May Day article bookish. Charles Kent articles are all like this hwen we get them . We try to get them into ordinary everyday language and strucutre but in order not to cut the article to peices and incidently the heart out of the author we leave some of it in. Take a .look at some of the Kent articles. Obviously writeen by someone who is well read

intelligent but they have a heavy hand. Kent doesn't talk like this at all. He talks very simply but when he get down to a peice of paper.....
I hope you can get that book....it is a real education.

I see now that I was mistaken in the report that the papers were distributed on May 1. The May Day parade seems to have been a genuine united front. from waht I can see in the papers. Did they exclude us from it.

Well we no sooner have one issue away when the next one comes up. We are having the editrorial board meeting tomorrow night. I am writing you now so that you will get this letter before the week-end and will be able to make the dead-line. The dead-line is Tuesday the 25th or at the very latest the morning mail of the 26th.

Have you anything in mind for this issue. If perchance you are unable to handle anything and all the other comrades(in particlar Borland or Stnaton) are unable then be sure to drop us a line so we can make other arrangments .

I have been glancing over the B.C. papers. The CCF News seems to be very late.

Is there anything of interest developing around the fight against Bill 87
" " " " the Rod Oung by-election.
What about the IWA..the boss demand that they put up so much per mmeber the use of Bill 39 against Local 1-71, the progress of the wage drive.

I see that the miners have settled, the civic employees also. Perhaps if the there is not enough for an IWA story we could use a labor roun-up

How do these four strike you? We can give you four to five papges. If you would like to handle two of them separately go ahead. The IW of hand seems to me to be the best story unless there are devloments not yet reported here.

I am very sorry that I did not have time to write you with regards to your saggestions on the the coming elections. I dropped Tom a note telling him that I was going to try to get a statment out that we would present in the name of the P.C. to the Canadian workers. I got so bogged up that this was not possible. Of course we had to have some kind of statemnt in the paper. so I finally was able to get down and wrtite one. We published it in my name which gives it an official party status but we did not want to publish it in the name of the N.C. or P.C. since the comrades did not have a chance to see it and that would give it the nth degees of officialness.

The article itslef is self explanatory. I beleive it to be a good re-statment of the position that we have taken in the past.

We are unable to run a candidate here in Ontario. We would have to plank down one hundred dollars on the line and could not possible run the campaign on less than another 300. We havent got the money..nor do we have the forces to do so. I do not believe that we can afford to tie up our small party in election campaign after election campaign. We are a propoganda group and there are great limitations on how much we can apitalize on elections. Toronto still owes 175 dollars on the mayoralty. It is my opinion that the mayoralty is tens times as valueable from our point of view. The vote is city wide and the post so important in the Canadian scene that it receives antion-wide publicity. If we wnet inot the leection that would mean our whole year gone in electioneering. In my opnion thais would be very unhealthry for a small revolutionary party and its developmtn.

If it wasn't for the fact that we did run in the last mayorality and we intend to run the the next I would say it would be a good idea to run a candidate. The Next B.C. provincial or municipal(Van) election should see a Trotskyist candidate.

It seems to me that we cannot do half of those things you suggest. We just havent got the strength. It is a titantic effort for us to put out the paper let alone run candidates, put out leaflets in this rea and that explain our position on this and that. We havent even built the cadres for a sprty yet. Our entrance inot the Toronto el ctions is in many ways premature. We have very few comrades whom we can put forward to represent the party. It is a great responsibility and we have as yet few who can measure up to it.

The Stalinists are running two candidates here in Toronto for two seats that they held in the last house. The CCF is opposing them for bothe seats. Aside from what our position is...I do not think we are required to issue a speical leaflet and cover those areas "to make our position abundanlty clear." We are not yet that big a factor on the scene that we must take a public position on every little incident. The workers are not demanding it of us. If we had some forces in the needle trades or there was a great ferement in the IPP or CCF over this I would say yes. But we are a little group of about 20 people and in my opinion our party is n't going to be built on whtehrt we take a public position on this issue or not. As a matter of fact I cannot see that we have anything to gain at all in committing curselves on this matter.

When we are running as labor candidates for post unchallenged by any other canddiates who could clian to represent labor therewas something gained in making the record of critical support of CCF and IPP candidates. I do not see where anything is to be gained in taking a shapp public position in these two seats.. In the matter of choice between the two candidates IPP or CCF I would say that we would have to tell the workers to vote IPP, against the war preparation that the CCF supports and pro Soviet which the CCF is not. If we are going to instruct the workers to vote one of two candidates both of whom rep esent working class political independence it seems to me that the criterean would have to be who is closer to our program. This is a moot point. But in this period there is little doubt in my mind that the IPP is closer.

Our comrades are not participating in the CCF campaign. Genrally the worers are disinterested in the campaign although I am sure the CCF will double its seats. The workers are not jamming the committee rooms...there is no real upheaval that we could take advantage of if we went into work for a CCF victory. Then again we just havent the people to spare. Our sub campaign is much much too important for us to neglect and get involved in CCF jo-work. In the unions we are supporting every move to endorse and put the CCF into power. Our position has brought us right up against the forces who are the real powerhouse behind the CCF campaign...the trade union bureaucrats.Both the IPP and our comrades opposed the stright-jacket that the CCF and the trade union bureaucrats have iiposed on the PAC's of the various locals ... we were without success and as you know if we did have the comrades in prominient position we would be excluded from the PAC(s . The extent of trade union control of the CCF has been settled in Ontario for the time being...its nil.

Well I want to get this letter off as soon as possible so that you will receive it by Saturday morning's mail for sure so I had better close off. There is lots more to say on this matter of the CCF and the elections. Hope you will find time to let me know w hat you think of the statement and am looking forward to a more thorough discussion on this problem

comradely

June 7 1948

Dear Reg;

Just a short note to let you know the score on the coming issue of the paper. We are publishing a mid-June issue and are then going on a monthly schedule for the summer months of July and August. The July and August issues will be published in the mid month. We need the money saving and also a little rest. I do not think anyone will look askance at this as it is quite comonly done by other papers and magazines much as I donT like to see us do it.

I have just come from the printers and the arrangeent of the printing of this ussue. As you can see the Friday which we usuallly get the paper off on is the 11th. This is rather early particularly as we do not go to press again for another month ...so I have arranged with him to have most of the copy in by that Friday but run off the paper on the Monday and Tuesday following. That means that we would like to have the copy form B.C. on the Saturday which would give us Sunday to get it and other last minute stuff ready for the printer. If it is not humanely possible to get the copy here by Saturday morning mail we might manage to handle it if it reached us by Monday morning. I do not like to give you Monday however as we have a lot of work here to do on that day without being cluttered up with last minute material..... hope you can handle something.

You will have noted that we did as good a job on the IWA as we could from the B.C. press in the last issue under trade union notes. We were more or less compelled to do a job on it as our paper badly needs trade union material to round it out. While the company demand for a bond may have only been sparring it is an important indi cation of the company tactics coupled as it is with the legal aasault on the union leadership being led off by Smith and Osberg. Perhaps the use of this material badly cuts into your plans for this issues article on the IWA. I hope not as we have a place for an IWA article. Perhaps you will only need about three pages in the light of the trade union note in the last issue.

The Van Labor Council action on the Labor Relations Borad sounds like a very good item for an editorial as you suggest. This is the first that I have heard of it. I have just glanced at our B.C. CCF News file and am suprised to see that we do not have any issue later than May 20 th yet. Perhaps the floods have held up our copies. Would appreciate it if some one there could write up an editorial on this and send us the news item along with it.

Normally I would say that the B.C. CCF convention would be first rate material for an article on the CCF. CCFers here look to the B.C. CCF as the left. However we will be devoting considerable space in this issue on an analysis of the Ontario and the By elections and this is probably enough for the CCF in one issue. When is the convention? I cannot find a date in the last CCF News. I suppose the mid-July issue would be no good for a convention analysis as it would be a month old. If this is so then if there is really anything interesting we should carry it anyway in this issue. Would be particularly interested if there is any sign of a left wing or any opposition to the leadership.

We will be carrying an extensive article on the G.M. sliding scale contract in the coming issue. It has created considerable interest in the sliding scale. If you can get the material on the milk drivers it would be very good for about a one page box.

Comradely

Ross

Ross

June 25 1948

Dear Reg;

We received your very fine list of subs alright and the enclosed funds. It is good to see that the branch was able do so well. Does that wind up the drive or were there some more to come? It would be good for the final report of the drive if you could send us as soon as possible a few details of the drive... how the individual sub scores ran, the degree of branch participation, experiences during the campaign, the type of subs that were gained etc.

The Toronto branch closed their campaign with a total of 225... 25 short of the objective. The comrades in the scattered towns in the West also did very well. We did not make our national objective but I think we can honestly say we did a good job considering the general conditions in the labor movement.

I see in the note that you sent with the subs that you do make a few comments on the experiences of the branch. Yes! I think it would be a good idea to expand them a little and take up a few of the items that I raise above.

I am enclosing a short list of recent expirations with this letter. I hope that they fit in together with others that have been piling up so that you can make some worth while rallies. I agree with you... the renewal work is extremely important as it permits us to do some serious contact work on people who have a fair idea just what we are. It is best of course if you on call back as soon as the sub has expired and we are on their minds. While we did not make any membership gains here in Toronto from our renewal work we did manage to get a few down to the odd forum and we have four or five new names who we are putting on our financial drive list for this fall. The Toronto comrade in charge of this work took all the expirations and broke them up into geographical groups, then took map of the city and traced out the streets that we have renewal work to do on, and marked with an X the approximate position of the various houses. He then gave this little map with the addressographed slips belonging to it to different comrades to work on. We held rallies for this work as we found that giving a comrade a list to work on in his own time was not satisfactory. Some of the comrades managed to sell a few pamphlets that they took along with them.

I hope that the flood has eased off sufficiently for Labor Challenge to get through. I gather it has, for just a few days ago we got a flood of CCF News.

Incidently while I think of it what do you think of writing a good human interest story on the flood... the last issue of the Pacific Tribune had a story on dike workers being shifted over to stop the flood moving in on a lumber boss's hunting estate… Rod Young had an interesting story on an airplane trip he took over the flooded areas and his feelings in the last CCF News.

It could be written from several of many angles, the government's callousness, its responsibility, the solidarity of the workers one with the other, the destruction of years of their labor etc... Perhaps one of the women comrades would like to try their hand on it... I am sure Ruth or Ellaline could do a good job... what do you think.

Well as I started to say I hope you have received the last issue of the paper by now and have had a chance to look it over. As you can see we did not use your article of the Labor Relations Board incident as an edit nor did we use it as you sent it in for the article that appears on the front page.

It seems to me that the latter half of the article advocates a false policy... which is finally summed up in the last sentence: "Demand the right of organized labor to nominate and elect the Boards which administer Legislation Governing Labor Relations."

The traditional policy advanced by revolutionary Marxists has always been to boycott such bodies. All during the war we ruthlessly exposed the Labor Boards demanding that labor withdraw any and all representatives on them. Marxists have always opposed labor participation in the capitalist state apparatus... we have always opposed labor participation in capitalist cabinets (coalition)... this is the meaning of the slogan SP-CP to power in France... Break the coalition (with Churchill in England) etc.

This is a principled question with us. It is not a matter of who is the labor representative, if he is weak or strong... whether he is a nonentity or a leader. The workers must learn just what the role of these boards is and the role of the labor representative on it. The labor representative is there only to sanctify the labor law, to give it a labor front... and to enforce it with all his prestige, or as you put it in the first part of the article: "This is just what the Minister of Labor wanted; tacit acceptance of the general outlines of Bill 39." 1 do not know anything about Strange but the argument of the Labor bureaucrats about Strange being weak is absolutely stupid... he is no more weak than thousands of others in the long history of experiences like this have been. Strong and good men have capitulated on such boards. Even if he had been strong the mere fact that he continued to sit on the board would have sufficiently served the purpose of the bourgeoisie. As a matter of fact if he had carried on a proper fight with the government reps and continued to sit on the board he would have no less served their purpose. The government does not mind minority reports... as long as the workers obey the majority report... as long as they obey the law… in this case Bill 39.

That the regulations are such that he is hand-picked... or the fact that Strange did so obviously sell out on the fight against Bill 39 does not cause Marxists to demand that the trade union rank and file or even they themselves should pick labor reps... or that they should attack Strange as an individual as the Stalinists have. It only affords us a grand opportunity to really expose the nature of the boards and the sole role that labor reps can play on them… it only provides us with a terrific opportunity to expose all forms of class collaboration. It does not matter what the terms of representation may be, we can only demand boycott. It doesn't matter who the workers want to go on the Boards (including ourselves, the strongest of the strong, the most incorruptible)… we must oppose labor representation. The board itself is only part of the capitalist state apparatus which we must expose and destroy. Its purpose is to enforce the anti-labor designs of the capitalists, or if it has no legal power, to sugar coat them and slip over the workers with the aid of the labor bureaucracy.

I do not see how we possibly can demand that labor "nominate and elect Boards which administer legislation governing Labor Relations..." that labor administer capitalist legislation, for that is all it can be. Labor can only advance as it remains independent of the capitalist state and all its phony labor boards aid bodies. Have you read Trotsky on the Trade Unions in the Imperialist Epoch of Decay?

I had originally taken this up at some length in the rewritten article but we were forced to cut it out at the last moment. However we might have something more on this question in the next issue of the paper. Mel Colby, LPP trade union journalist, has an article in the last Tribune examining the recent decision of the Labor board on the Rogers strike where he says that the Ontario Board may "as well shut up shop as far as its future usefulness is concerned…" and ends up with the plea that "the OLRB needs overhauling if it is to continue to be of service to labor".... As if it had ever been of service to anyone but capital.

It is interesting to note that the first thing that labor had to do in order to launch the 1946 wage battles was to by-pass the labor boards. Even Millard had to openly defy them as did the UE etc.

I am at a loss to understand the last part of the article as the first part has the correct position implicit in it. They seem to me to be in complete contradiction. Whereas the paragraph that I have lined has your false conclusion implicit in it.

The writing of this letter has recalled to my mind that when Tom was down here a few years ago we had a hot and heavy argument along the same line. I wonder if it would not be a good idea to have a discussion in the branch on this matter. You might use Trotsky's article which we have here in separate pamphlet form as a lead.

We have not yet got together to discuss the next issue. However we will probably be having an editorial meeting on the 5th of July and probably set the deadline for the 9th. I will be writing you in good time anyway.

Thanks for the clipping on Young's Trotskyism. Glad you received the telegram in time. Since the branch made the decision on the matter I will be writing Whitney on this matter. I have not written him a letter for a hell of a long time.

There are some developments on the P.C. that I will be writing you about shortly. By the way how do things look for a convention or at least a plenum for this fall. Will we be able to get reps at the CCL convention being held in Toronto?

Comradely

Ross Dowson

June 25 1948

Dear Comrade Bill; (Whitney, VAN.)

There are several small matters that I have intended to take up with you for sometime but what really proppts me to write you at this time is the receipt of a clipping from a Vancouver paper on tha alleged Trotskyism of Rodney Young and some remarks from Comrade Reg that the branch had instructed him to write a letter of denial to this paper.

I have asked him to delay doing so and he has infomred us that he will take it up again with the branch.

In my opinion it would be sectarian on our part to publicly disown Young. We have nothing to gain by so doing and possibly gain some worthwhile publicity by leaving the matter to stew a bit.

Young is a CCFer He is not known to be at particular edds with this party which is not mistaken by anyone to have anything in comon with Trotskyism . What offenses he may have committed against the workers are not at all likely to be laid at the door of our party. On the contrary, it would seem to me from the editorial that this charge of Trotskyism that has been laid against him flows from some good that he has been incidently been doing. I gather from the editorial that he has been attacking the Stalinists not as reds or revolutionaries but as Stalinists. ...and it is from this fact that the charge flows. Whther this is true or not I do not know but this is the impression one gets from the edit. And this is good. And when someone does this we do not disown them but praise them. When any trade union bureaucrat Stalinist worker or CCFer takes a correct position we do not denounce them, we do not completely identify ourselves with them but we encourage them to go farther. We may expose their short comings but we try to help them along.

I gather from comments received from various comrades that Young is politically a centrist and a hardened opportunist. Despite this it seems to me that if [illegible] the left wing develops in the CCF in its first days it may possibly rally around such types as Young and the recently elected Williams. This at least is certain..it will not be Trotskyist from the start. Our task is to encourage the formation of such a group in the CCF and to attempt to give it our program. This seems to me to be another reason why we have no purpose in disowning Young. At this stage we must only"disown" the Coldwell's and McInnis'.,,persons whom the Trotskyist have no need of disowning.

The fact that this matter has become an issue of such importance to require and editorial is a reflection of the extreme importance that the bourgeoisie attribute to our very weak forces or rather the knowledge that they have of the power of our program. It is no small tribute to the activity of our Vancouver branch.

That first page you might read to the branch at the next meeting Bill. Thanks for the note on Comrade Salloum. I hope that you did everything possible to keep him in Vancouver working with your branch...for it is only the rare comrade who finds himself able to work on his own and at best his work is not near as effective. I have not yet written him but will do so tomorrow. We have heard no word from him.

By the way would you take time out in the next week or so to write us a short report on comrade Jean Carlson and her work in the branch during her stay in Vancouver. She has written us that she has returned to Lloydminster and sent us somevmoney for dues and pledge. She herself says nothing about Vancouver and I would like to know your impressions . They would be valuable to us in determining just what we can ask her to do forvthe party and what we can expect from her.

No doubt you have noticed the letter from Eve Smith that we published in the last issue of the paper. We also have received a fantastic letter in defence of the CFL and the raiding taking placevat the Rogers UE shop...I am pretty sure it is from Lamont....It is unsigned.
I meant to bring to your attention the CCYM resoultion on the British Labor Party that we published in a previous issue of the paper. Mid May issue of L.C. The Edmonds Club in Burnaby. I hope someone has investigated this resolution which by itself is quite good. From what we can see from here there appears to be a little ferment in the CCYM in the Vancouver district. It would be well for us to pay considerable attnetion to the CCYM. I know that the Van branhc is very small and has a tough time with its present forces meeting the day to day responsibilities of a party branch, but it would be good to consider sending someone inot the CCYM. at a later date. Of course we cannot think of it as long as it would endanger our ability to carry on as an independent group.

Almost two months ago we sent a bound volume of the Trotskist press as it has appeared from the earliest days. to the Vancouver branch in care of Ellalins's address. We enclosed with it a sample copy of the bound volumes of Labor Challenge from No 1 to No. 54. We have never received word that it arrived alright. Would you check into it. The bound volume of early issues is the property of the branch. it is not complete as some issues appear to have been completely destroyed. This is a very valueable volume and I hope that the branch will put it inot its library adad take good care of it There is only one other volume here in Toronto. Perhpas someone has the missing copies and would agrre to let you insert them.

to

We sent the sample volume of Labor Challenge as we wanted the let the comrades see what a fine job was done iwth it. Needless to say the bound volume of L.C. forms a valuable hisotry of the past three years of struggles....and contains mayny articles of lasting theoretcial interest. I think every comrade should have a volume for reference. We would particularly like vto get them scattered across the country Would you raise the matter before the branch again and try to get orders for them

I would like also to raise the matter again of the Vancouver comrades attempting to get a postal box. I do not think we can afford to wait until we get a headquaters. If we cannot get an address then the next best thing is a box number. We are fairly well known there now, we have distributed thoudands od papers...and yet no one can get in touch with us except via Toronto..which is very discouraging for anyone. I hope we can get one, that there is a vancancy now. There are many now in Toronto. In my opinion this is a very urgent matter. We have ieher got to have an address or a box number.

We received the excellent fruits of the branch's sub work. Glad to see that you did so well . Nationally we did not make our quota. There are still some to come in. However we have come very close to it and a very good job was sdone by all. The Toronto comrades closed their drive at the 223 mark...only 20 odd under their objective. Various comrades report that they made some very good contacts.

Reg tells me that he is working on the lists of renewals that have been accumulating out there. This should give us a real chance to do contact work on persons who already know waht we are.

I hear that you have a sliding scale contract at the dairy. How does it work.

comradely

Ross Dowson

July 19 1948

To the Vancouver Branch;
Dear Comrades ;

Last week shortly after we had gone to press with the mid-July issue of Labor Challenge we received your communication on Rodney Young.

No doubt you all noticed an article on Young's first important speech to the House of Commons dealing with the Parliamentary Prices Committee.

In view of the position taken by the branch in the documnt forwarded by Comrade Whitney I can well understand that there wouldcbe strong opposition to this article. While in my opinion the writing of this article is correct nonetheless if we had been in possession of your statement we would not have carried it in the press until there had been further clarification on this question and all that it involves.

The P.C. will be meeting this week with the addition of Comrade Dowson from Montreal and will raise the whole matter in the National Committee.

Comradely

Ross Dowson

July 19 1948

Dear Reg;

No doubt you have received the last issue of the paper by now and have had a chance to go over it thoroughly. It is not quite as we had planned it. We had intended to run the complete Manifesto in this issue by inserting a one-page leaf, but at the last minute the American comrades informed us that they would be unable to get us the copy in time as they are tied with the election campaign and post convention mess. This means that we are compelled to run it into the next issue. Which isn't good but however no tragedy. Then of course we had to do a job on the Tito-Stalin rupture.

What are the possibilities out there of contacting an number of Yugoslav-Canadians with the 1ast issue of the paper. I think that the Militant edit that we lifted and our article on the LPP Yugoslav periphery makes a good item for distribution to Yugoslav workers. Large sections of them are in the LPP or in LPP periphery groups. One of our comrades tells us that there are considerable settlements up the coast... and that they are Stalinized. One of the comrades went through the Toronto voters list and picked out about 200 Yugoslav names. We sent the paper to all of them. We also went down to the Might Directory office and went through the list of the population in Schumacher, Ontario. We sent about 150 papers to that town. If of course there had been a functioning and numerous Yugoslav group in Toronto we would have distributed the paper to them but they are scattered across the city and meet in small local cells. Can we do something about this in Vancouver. Are there directories of small settlements up the coast. Of course the paper is also very good for non-Yugoslav Stalinists. We have a considerable number of copies on hand and would be pleased to express them out there. I think we can strike a real blow at Stalinism with this Tito development.

Yugoslav names end in the following manner… vic ac they are the most common. ic ski ich iuk ec

We received Ruth's article alright and as you can see gave it a good play. I think it was a very good one. The changes made were very minor… for the most part to give it a more of class angle (the MacMillan estate defence.) Ruth (Benson, from SWP –ed.) made the slight adjustments so off hand I cannot recall just what they were all about. I hope that Ruth (Bullock) will try her hand at writing for the paper more often. It is very difficult to get writers with a good personal touch. Perhaps she would like to try her hand on a column along the line that Mary Wood writes. The paper could really profit by a few new pens on its pages. Congratulate her on behalf of the editorial board, will you! And we are certainly looking for more from her, and tell her not to wait for an assignment. I would write her a line or have Ruth do so but Ruth is out of town on her job for a few days and as soon as she gets back I hoping to take about a week off to catch up on my reading somewhere out of town.

I would like to say a few more words about the Strange article and your last letter on my comments. I am taking it up again not because I believe it can be settled by means of a letter but because it is such a vital question involving fundamentals. It involves such basic principles that it cannot be permitted to slip by as can be done with many other disagreements which know will be

straightened up in the process of work. If I were in the Vancouver branch I would insist that the matter be the subject of a branch educational. As a matter of fact I would appreciate it if you would sit down and write up a document for inclusion in an internal bulletin which I promise to get out if it takes me all night… and I have to type all the stencils myself.

I would gather from your last 1etter that you are opposed to all boycotts as being unrealistic and sectarian. But boycotts in the history of Bolshevism have been a very common revolutionary tactic. The Bolsheviks at times boycotted the Tzarist Duma. In our paper we recently advocated that the CCF M.P.s boycott the Parliamentary Prices Investigation Committee. The Militant advocated boycott by the unions of the Truman Fact Finding Committees… Revo1utionists always been opposed to labor participation in the capitalist state apparatus (margin note: that is, merely as representatives.) We utilize capita1ist parliament to expose the capitalist state but on principle never participate in bourgeois cabinets, governments. All during the war the key demand of the British party was break the coalition with Churchill whether there was an election coming up or not. The slogan SP-CP to power is merely the concretization of the idea that labor must break the coalition with the capitalist parties, must pull its members out of the cabinets and all the capitalist state apparatus and take power. This slogan was raised not only at elections. Our paper when it first came out raised in its pages time and time again the demand the labor reps must be compelled to withdraw from the War Labor Boards. The militant demanded this all during the war.

I just enumerate some of the cases as it seems to me after a most careful scrutiny of your letter that you take a principled opposition to the tactic of boycott. I cannot see where you even suggest that it is only not applicable here at this time and place. If this is so then it is necessary for us to put all this past into the waste paper basket as a monstrous series of sectarian and unrealistic mistakes.

What seems to be the motif in your comments is fear that we would isolate ourselves from the workers… that we have to go along with them. But there are occasions when we absolutely refuse to go with them and to do so would be committing a terrible crime. We are not politicians of the day like the CCF. We have a perspective which compels us to buck the whole tide at times… in complete defiance of the prejudice and backwardness of the workers. For we know that not to buck the tide, to swim against the stream will only in the long run lead to more horrible and crushing defeats. Cannon in a recent speech on the Wallace question that appeared in an internal bulletin that you received recently dealt at some length on this question.

There is no doubt in my mind that participation in the capitalist state apparatus is one experience which we refuse to go along with the workers in… this is a principle.

We told the workers that the last war was a capitalist war and that they could not support it in any way whatsoever... and we didn't support it in any way from beginning to end. The CCF in contrast made opposition statements of a type and then said realism demands that we support it. Coldwell might have said what you say on the suggestion of boycott of the government labor board... "There are no elections coming up and the revolution is not ripe." Therefore you raise a slogan of no conscription of manpower without conscription of wealth or the substitute that you

recommend on the Bill 39 issue. But we took an intransigent position on the war. We would give no political support of any kind and go to jail if necessary.

You take up the fight against Bill 39... demand its repeal, advocate the bypassing of its provisions. “So far so good but where in hell do we go from here. Certainly

we do so and so but what do we propose as a substitute.” Reg I am afraid there just isn’t any substitute for the mass strength of the workers.

Yes when the elections were up we call for the ditching of the Coalition and the election of the CCF. This demand is only another and a political form of demanding its removal from the statutes. No election and no revolution. Well then it seems to me that all we can do is tell the workers patiently that they must prepare their forces to do frontal battle with the law, prepare to by-pass its provisions and destroy it in mass action. You may say that mass actions are not now realizable. We are a small force, the present mood of the workers etc. True but our agitation has an important role to play in making them realizable in the future. Our task is to now tell the workers that they have to defy the law and all those who would enforce it. Wasn’t that the line that we took at the mass anti-Bill 39 meeting held a month or two ago. What determines our policy is not the mood of the masses but objective conditions.

After all this is how revolutionists differ from reformists. We tell the workers that nothing is won except by strugg1e, by their own mass strength. And we see our task as one of making the workers conscious of this strength, of purging them of all class collaborationist tendencies in preparation for the armed seizure of power.

I hope that this doesn’t seem too pedantic but I haven’t been able to say it in other form. I hope you will either change your position or ask us to change ours, and if you remain convinced of your position I think you should sit down and develop your point of view for the party’s sake.

I haven’t had a chance to do any thinking about the next issue of the paper so I will be writing you again in a week or so.

with warmest regards

Ross

July 19 1948

To the Vancouver Branch;
Dear Comrades;

We have received your enquiry as to how and why the decision of one issue per month (Labor Challenge) for two summer months was arrived at."

We are rather suprised that the N.C. members there could not give any knowledge on their part of this arrangement" or that the branch itself feels compelled to question the arrangement.

The paper continues to be in considerable fiancial difficulties, added to this are staff difficulties. The March 21st P.C. minutes report a Vancouver NC member's recommendation that the P.C. and N.C. discuss the advisability of puting Labor Challenge on "a monthly basis say till the end of the year." The P.C. recommended rejection of this suggestion and recommended publication as a twice monthly "as long as we are financially able" stating that in its opinion it would be "preferable to miss the odd issue as financail difficulties compell us rahter than retreat to a monthly." This recommendation appeared to have been completely satisfactory to all N.C. members.

The mechanics or the application of this decision cannot be decided upon by any branch of the party or [redacted] do we feel that it is necessary to go to the N.C. itself for the detailed application. We feel that this decision thrusts the responsibility of deciding on its application upon those comrades who were elected by the National Convention to handle the party funds and to see to the publication and editorialization of its press. Any other understanding we feel would be a mockery of the principles of democratic centralism which guide the internal life of our party.

The comrades be be sure that the National Office is exerting every effort to maintain our press as a twice monthly and when economies have to be made doing its best to make them at least cost to our cause.

comradely

Ross Dowson

July 20 1948

Dear Bill;

I received your other short note on the branch request regarding correspondence. I have taken a glance at my last letter and notice through an oversight the first page dealing with Rod Yuong and the branch instructions that a comrade wirte a letter of denial to the capitalist press was addressed to you personally. The first page was of course meant to be read formally to the branch as are the two enclosed letters.

I see I mentioned on the second page which contained a lot of little odds and ends that it was for the branch even though I did not start it off with that formal address. I hope you noticed it and that my little slip is what brought about the branch request.

The rest of the letter was of course addressed to you. To have addressed all those little odds and ends which are of course party business, to the branch would only bog up the meeting. And in a sense would be a vote of non confidence on the part of the N.O. in the comrades who are the elected and responsible leaders of the branch. It seems to be that branch correspondence is correctly limited to those things that concern branch activity and the political development of the branch.

Will be writing more later.

warmest regrads

Ross

July 1948

(Bulloch, WAW)

Dear Ruth;

Just a few words on your remarks about the short article that appeared sometime ago on the buyer's strike. I suppose by the time you receive this letter the new issue of the paper will be in your hands so I might as well pick that up too.

After reading the first article over I am of the opinion that it is probably wrongly entitled. The article probably should have been entitled along the line of "Prod the union leaders into action" or "There are no substitutes for a new wage drive." It was not designed to give our position og housewives organizations and the housewives advocacy for a buyers strike and struggle against rising prices. It was designed to expose the trade union leadership as attempt to get out from under the new wage drive. Millard and other as it quotes tried to substitute a buyers strike for a new wage drive. I think it does this very effectively. If it had been written to deal with the program for a Housewives Consumers Organization it would of course been fundamentally different. As it was it could not very well deal with "the organizational and agitational angle" as you suggest.

In this issue we have however an article on the Housewives trek on Ottawa to urge the roll back on prices after the completion of their buyers strike. I think here you will find that the issues involved are dealt with more fully, our attitude explained. We attack the buyer's strike as being a false program for the housewives as it in relatively ineffective and can thus only lead to a feeling of frustration and impotence among the masses. To this we conterpose the program that we attempt to give the Housewives organizations wherever we are. We try to expand them to give them a trade union base and to encompass in their ranks the white collar workers and incidently the small merchant. We try to give the organization the program of demanding its own control of prices. We expose the governemnt fraudulent control and call for genuine control through the consumers committees. How we try to expand and further the struggle against the main enemey, the big monopolists is very well explained in the January 1947 issue of Fourth International Page 25 subsection 3. I hope you have a copy IF YOU HAVE NOT JUST DROP US a line and we will forward one.

I think that the above slogans are the ones that we would raise in the housewives as the sliding scale is not a slogan that the housewives and petty bourgeois sections of the organization can rally around. It is a slogan of militant action for trade unionists. Price committees supported by the trade unions wherever possible can conduct a parallel struggle with the struggle for higher wages and the sliding scale.

We of course should be in the housewives organizations and go along with them in their struggles but unceasingly attempt to give them the correct program. I am sure you have found some very worthwhile contacts there we can inspire with our marxist insight.

I see that you have had a CCF speakers at your meeting. Would it be possible to arrange to have Reg speak and give our program

I recall now that one of the branch reports stated that you were very active in the housewives organization but it had completely slipped my mind. I am sure there must be development that would be very useful to our readers. Could you keep in closer touch with us and we will try to write articles to the various problems as they develop in your activities.

I am sure by this means we can make the paper much more useful to you in your ~~activities~~ and help build around you and Comrade Whitney an effective fraction.

Warmest regards

Ross Dowson

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... VANCOUVER, May
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...e community whist drive
...nesday saw a new record,
for 24 hands, scored by Mrs.
Strudwick. Players will try
match her record when they
...t again at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

...UNNYSIDE, May 31.—Sun-
...ide Community Association
hold a dance in the hall here
...y at 9:30 p.m.

...'E BEEN AGAIN

...he Water Board announced
...netime ago that when work-
...n, laying a new pipeline, be-
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...uld start again. This happened
weeks ago.

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...veland said that the lower in-
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...ot being treated.

...of the lot, to me
...ne Vancouver Sun. Or
...u may do it by telephone.

Business Wants Part in Planning

WEST VANCOUVER, May 31. — The Chamber of Commerce has made a request to the municipal council that whenever appointments are to be made to the town planning commission in future, "serious consideration should be given to the business interests."

"The Chamber of Commerce does not feel that these have been properly represented on the town planning commission in the past," the request declared.

The park boa...
appropriation to cover t...
assuming that it would be a...
ed equally between the corporation and the owner of cottages behind The Clachan, who would also be served by the line.

"These things were supposed to be paid out of the proceeds of the hotel, not out of public monies," declared Councillor J. Richardson, chairman of finance.

The question is to be followed up with the park board.

Stove Pipe Fire

LANGLEY PRAIRIE, May 31. An overheated stove pipe in the Casa Loma Cafe here brought the Langley Fire Brigade out just before midnight Thursday evening. No damage was done.

...ha...
382 E...

Auto Worke... Ask Conciliator

Vancouver Auto Workers lodge 1857, has applied to the provincial department of labor for a concillator in its dispute with Mackenzie, White and Dunsmuir Ltd., union official Len Butler said today.

He said the union was certified representative for the company's 50-odd employees in November, 1946, but the firm has refused to sign a contract.

HOUSEWIFE PICKETS exercising their ban against the purchase of clothing are pictured here as they picketed a local clothing store, Friday. Front, from left to right, are Mrs. Muriel Robertson, Mrs. Beattrice Lone and Mrs. Kathleen Manns. Back row: Mrs. LaVon Tooth (picket captain), Mrs. M. Leyshon, and Mrs. Ruth Bullock, president of the North Vancouver branch of the Housewives Consumers' Association.

Summer 1948 summer 1948

August 4 1948
(1948)

Dear Reg;

I have just sent off in the mail copies of various trade union resolutions that the American party has adopted on different occasions. What with the last SWP resolution that I sent you I think you will now have a good idea of the general character of the resolution that we require on this trade union question. Could you read and study them and then let Tom and Lloyd do the same. Then it would be advisable to call a meeting and to outline the draft of the resolution appointing someone to do the first writing, or if necessary breaking it down and each of you writing parts of it. This latter suggestion is not a good idea if we can possibly help it. After the first writing it would be best to get together again and polish the document up making any necessary corrections. When you ship the document here for mimeographing would you be sure to send this batch of SWP trade union resolutions back with it. I want to keep them on the files. I hope you can get it here in good time.

The H.L. MacMillan story (Kirkland Island) comes from the Pacific Tribune of some issues back. I thought I mentioned that this story would be one of the good anecdotes for Ruth's diary when we suggested that we carry one on the floods. The story may be a fabrication but I am doubtful. The story is by Hal Griffin and appears in June 18 issue. It is supposed to be "down Ladner way". No one has written into the paper about it.

I hope you have a subscription to the Pacific Tribune and the CCF News. If you haven't the branch should buy you one. And of course when we get a headquarters we can put it up in the reading room corner. Did you see the July 23 issue of the Tribune. On page 9 Mickleburgh writes "Similtaneously elections being held in southern Oregon's District Six are registering a repudiation of the Trotskyite former International Secretary E Benedict who went in there to do a job for Fadling." In the July 16th issue page 9 " Locals 1-71, 1-85, and 1-217 have demanded his resignation (Fadlings) (Story on the job is that only three Trotskyites, two of whom had been expelled from the CCF could be found to vote for Fadling in the big Vancouver sawmill local.)"

So there is no question in my mind that the B.C. article for this issue must be on the IWA situation and our policy. As a matter of fact without this we should carry a story on the IWA retreat before the Coalition's charge that strike vote would be illegal. I have been following the B.C. Lumberworker and there is excellent material in it to expose the Stalinist fancy attempt to equate a strike vote with strike itself. The arguments that the leadership use for retreating with their tail between their legs are arguments not against a vote but against strike This is a traitorous act when they are in the midst of negotiations. The arguments that they use can only further weaken the union in negotiations. In fact they state in so many words that there can be no strike because the IWA stands alone in the wage battle at this time. A nice assurance for the bosses. What a joke. One of the most powerful unions in Canada cannot go on strike because none of the others are out. The July 23 issue of the Lumberworker has just come in and there are notes from various locals in it calling for the strike vote.

This article will provide us with a real opportunity to address the militants in the IWA and to expose the strike breaking role of the Stalinist leadership. We should also state our position clearly on Fadling. Unfortunately we are not going to have much room in this issue again as we are carrying the mini-up of the Manifesto but I think that the story is so important that we can afford 5 to 6 pages if necessary. I think it also would be a joint effort but I will take up the idea that Lloyd should sign it. We have a cut of him and after all he and Tom are known as Trotskyists and

(metal photo)

I am sure that there are many workers anxious to know just what Lloyd's (the Trotskyists) position is.

It would be very good if we could find some way of getting copies up into the camps. Let me know if you want extra copies for distribution.

We want all copy to be in via the morning mail of August 9th. This should give a full week end to work on it. If the article is dropped in a central box Sunday night we should get it by Monday noon I suppose. That will be alright.

Will send the bundle out to you till further notice. Now are we coming with the Postal Box or letter still with a headquarters? We are starting to look again for a large place here. I am hoping that all the building that has been going on has eased the situation up a little.

Comrade Hubbe has arrived in town and has got a job at [redacted] Swifts. We are all favourably impressed and are expecting big things. He has managed to build up a concentration that we have commenced in the [redacted]. Two other comrades have recently managed to get into Canada Packers. Both plants are together and the locals have a joint council. The Packinghouse Workers union appears to be a very favourable field for us. We already have two or three contacts and from all reports, the internal situation in the union is in flux. The Stalinists and CCF are both influential but neither force controls the situation.

comradely

Ross

August 14 1943

(Stan)

Dear Comrade Stanton:

Pardon the delay in replying to your letter of last month. I took a week off a short time ago and am only now managing to pick up the correspondence.

With regard to your suggestion re an exchange of book lists between Vancouver and Toronto and the circulation of these lists to outside points. Our library is now reaching ~~XXXX~~ considerable proportions. We have now filled a regular 5b shelved cabinet style bookcase and have also filled a three shelve case that one of the comrades made. And more books are coming in from time to time. We have set up a card index system and the books are really circulating, not only amongst our Toronto comrades but also amongst close contacts. The list is getting so big that it would take a considerable time to type it out for circualtion and we do not seem to have much time for the task. However if we do see our way clear for the handling of the job we shall try to do so. We are already sending the odd book to comrades in other parts of the country. We are sending books to Windsor and also toe Bill White at Britannia Beach.

I am afraid that I have nothing to add to the discussion that we have been having on the sliding scale article. I might only add to your remarks on false impressions being gained by readers from the structure of an article. This is a problem which confronts all of us inexperienced wiriters XXXX Sometimes the best of wirters XXXX are guilty of bad construction that leaves a sentence open to many interpretations or XXXXXXX ones contrary to that desired by the author. Oftern the writer in checking his work and being fully conscious of his own intentions does not catch thses errors. That is one of the reasons why it is good to have someone read the article over, after it is written. Neither Ruth nor I ,and we write the bulk of the material that goes inot the paper, send any copy up to the printer without having the other person read it first. You would be suprised what we catch and no doubt you have seen the odd thing in the paper that was not caught. That was one of the reasons why we appointed Reg to function as a sort of clearing house for articles from the Vancouver branchX It is of course first necessary to have some one who knows the deadlines , how to prepare the copy, to receive assignments and in a position to pass them on but it is also necessary for someone who can go over the material with the writer, someone who is slightly familiar with the material and can discuss its interpretation with the writier. I understand you read it over the phone to Lloyd. This is good but in reading it you can modulate and raise yourvoice give it expression and in this sense interpret the sentences that you wrote which without your interpretation might by construed to mean something quite different by someone else. It is necessary for someone to go over the written material.

You say perhaps with some practice you will learn to write a better article. Well we are very anxious that you should have some practice particularly after seing your first effort which I believe I told you is one of the best that we have ever received from the West Coast. The paper needs wirters very badly, particlarly from points outside of Toronto to give it a national flavor. And if we intend to do some serious party work in the unions we need an organ that expresses our point of view of our comrades in those unions. We want the paper to XX express the politcal needs of the party and all its members and to do this we have to have material from all sections of the party.

We have received the $7.50 that you sent for internal bulletins and L.C. bound volumes. I am not sure that the money you sent for bound volumes is XXX payment for the two bound volumes that we sent in care of Ellaline somewhile back(one was the first 54 copies of L.C. and the other was a collection of earlier Trotskyist Canadian papaers) or whether it is money in advance for two more bound volumes of Labor Challegne. If the first is the case we expect payment only for the bound L.C. and not for the earlier issues of the Canadian Trotskyist press. XXXXXXXXXX The XXXXXX bound volume of old papers was for the Vancouver branch library and is a gift from the N.O. Will you let me know what the score is on this just as soon as you can?

Habbe is here in the office . He has the afternoon off as there is no kill today at Swift Canadian. I have asked him if he wants to add anything to this note but he te ls me he will be wrtiing you very shortly.

How are literature sales coming on? We are expecting to receive a shipment of the various pamphlets and books that the Indian section has published any day now. Can you use any of them . What about some of the standard Marxist classics such as the Little Lenin Library. We have an account with International Publishers and can order any that you can use. I am thinking particularly of Lenin Left "ing Commu ism, Imperialism, State and Revolution. Engels' Socialism Utppian and Scientific, Marx, Wage Labor and Captial and Value Price and Profit, the Communist Manifesto, etc.

The SWP recently published a mimeographed bulletin of three discussions that comrades had with Leon Trotsky on the problem of the Labor Party. We ran out of them and were unable to send any to you. The SWP has signified that the bulletin can be sold XXXXXXX to the public. We have just received word that they are sending us some more. All the comrades should study these discussions very closely as they through much light on the problems that the rise of the CCF has confronted the Canadian party with. As soon as they arrive here I am sending you 5. If you can use more and I hope you can...drop us a line. They are .25 cents.

comradely

Ross Dowson

August 17, 1948

William W. White
Britannia Beach

Dear Comrade Bill;

I am just now managing to get caught up with the correspondence that has been accumulating during and following a six day holiday I took off. I have looked over your last letter and note that you asked us to send tyou the March April issue of the Fourth International. I do not remember sneding it to you and am wondering if I did since I made no notation on your letter that I did so. If I did not be sure to let me know and I will send it out at once, it contains aopart of a very important article on the Marsahll Plan and an interesting article on Karl Marx and Henry Luce the millionaire American publisher.

What is the situation in Britannia mines. I have been reading all about the closed down mines and all the boos threats to close more in the B.C. press. They have been playing these developments up in the financial pages in the East to attack the wage demands of the owrkers. This should give us a real opportunity to raise the demand in the union that the mines be nationalized and placed under the control of the oworkers. Possibly you could get the local to paass a resolution to the effect asking the CCF M.P.'s to take up this demand in the B.C. House. It also gives us an opportunity to demand that the books be opened for the inspection of the union. It seems to me that the workers threatened as they must feel with loss of jobs in some cases all the money and efforts that they have put in to build a home and shape a life would find these demands very acceptable....and that we could make considerable capital out of the situation.

We were thinking of writing an article for the next issue of the paper on this situation. Do you think you could do the job or [redacted] provide us with all the material necessary to write it. I am quite sure that you could handle it or at least take a stab at it and turn in material which could be easily whipped up inot shap here at the office. It would be very good for the paper to have such an article and particularly if it is wirtten on the spot. As far as I can determine right now the deadline will be August 30. That means that the article shouldvbe here at that date. at the latest.

Very sorry to hear that you have been ill for the past while and hope that you feeling much better and getting around a bit. How are some of our readers coming along politically, particularly Mitchell. Do you ever manage to get them to go over to Vancouver with you to meet our leading comrades there. Do you think it will be at a ll possible for us to arrange a study class series in Britannia with our various contacts and the aid of the Vancouver comrades. If you felt unable to handle the class by yourself I am sure that Vancouver can supply some competent aid. With the fall coming on and since we have three or four persons who are persistent readers of the paper this seems to me a realizable objective.

How are you coming along with The Stalin School of Falsifiaction. If you are finished reading it how about sending it in and we will mail you some more books. Our collection here is grwoing every day and we have some first class literature. Just mention the author and subject or if you cannot specify a particlar book tell us what you would like to read about.

Hope to hear from you as soon a possible about that article

comradely

Bill Whitney
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Bill;

I was very much interested to receive your letter and the copy of the letter that you sent to Dan.

Iet me first answer that series of short questions that you ask. Your letter is the first word that we have had about the new positions that Tom and Lloyd have adopted. Their position has absolutely no support in any other point in the party as far as we are informed. The P.C. and all other members of the National Committee hold with the position of the World Congress. I know this to be absolutely true with Montreal and Toronto comrades. I have never had the occasion to enquire of Angus and he has never expressed any contrary position. The National Committee following the suspension of Dick Whiteside Paddy Stanton and Muriel, is composed of 7 comrades; Myself, Murray, Jean, Angus, Reg, Lloyd and Tom. So you can see that the question of a formal majority hinges on Angus and Reg. As regard to a national discussion on the question of the Soviet Union. No one could possibly be opposed to such a discussion however we only just completed one prior to the World Congress. Documents substantiating every possible position were submitted mimeographed and circualted to all comrades. And in a sense the World Congress wound up this world wide discussion. If any Canadian comrade had found the circuating documents insufficient for his purposes it was to be expected that he would have submitted them to the N.C. to be mimeographed and circualted. I suppose that the discussion could be reopened but I do not know waht more could be said on it. During the discussion period opened up in the RWP prior to the World Congress the Toronto branch had several discussion on the question. I assume that the Vancouber branch did likewise. Possibly Lloyd and Tom have some new ide as to contribute to the discussion now. If they have in my opinion they should be asked to submit them in writingto be circualted to the party membership.

Personally I can not quite underatnd their sudden change of position or the lateness of the expression of their position. Could you throw any light upon it. It seems to me that it is possible that it flows from other questions althgether. It seems to me to be extremely peculair in view of all the recent developments in the Eastern European scene which throws such light on the character of the Stalin bureaucrady.

Possibly the conference that you have just held will throw more light on this problem.

Perhaps you are suprised that your note is the first that we have heard about Tom and Lloyd's position. Perhaps you will be suprised to know that we know nothing about "The IKA fraction is functioning and I take it you are receiving reports on that scroe which are more complete....." Our contact with Tom and Lloyd is very poor. Neither have even bothered t answer the last P.C. mimutes. And in my opinion their condict in the Vancouver branch has in amny ways and on many occasion resulted in the underminiig of our attempts to create a national leadership here in Canada.

The announcement of their position at an open study class is indeed unfortunate however it seems to me if we just casually glance backward we will find a whole series of developments in Vancouver which have the same character and flow from the same difficulties.

The Political Commitee has attempted to interven in the Vancouver branch and help strighten up some of theses difficlutesi but its intervention has always been circumvented by the peculiarly hostile and independent attitude of some of the comrades and its inability to find any force in the Vancouver brnch with which to work through. I have always felt that our correspondence has been met with an atmosphere of distrust. A large part of this distrust it seems to me has come from Tom and Lloyd who as N.C. members should have been doing their best to help build up a responsible and respected antional leadership. Most of their diffenced with other members of the N.C. and P.C. they have attempted to reiforce by thrusting them onto the floor of the Vacnouver branch prior to even voicing them on the N.C.

Despite the fact that your recent letter is a bearer of bad news I for one welcome it. I would like to suggest to you that we strike up a regular correspondence. There we can discuss the problems confronting the branch and help to strighten up some of the kinks. The biggest single factor that has prevented and circumvented N.C. collaboration with the Vancouver branch and its absorption into the party nationally has been our singular lack of genuine contact with the branch and its members. I hope that you will provide us with that contact so that we can help you in your work to strighten up Tom and Lloyd and build a strong Bolshevik section of the Fourth.

I am anxiously looking forward to your next letter.

wit h revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson.

Sept 10 1948

R. Bullock
Vancouver

Dear R$_e$g;

It is a considerable time since we have last heard from you. I received a lenghty letter from Lloyd addressed to the P.C. on the IWA which in passing mentioned the decsiion ~~XX~~ not to submit anything to Labor Challenge on IWA developments.

I was sorely tempted to write something but bowed to your decision. I do not understand the logic advanced by Lloyd. The IWA concentration is the best union concentration in the party and is lead by some of the most capable comrades in the par ty, big things are happening but the party press has nothing to say. Surely it cant be that we don't know where we stand in this situation? I am sure that this is not the case as we have had to take stands on various questions that have come up. Well workers are looking to us for leadership, and we want to show them that we Trotskyists are the ones that they should be looking to. In so far as B.C. is concerned our paper is compleltely divorced from party activities.

Perhaps there are limitationsto waht we could say since the situation is so in flux but there are lots of angles that we could approach the IWA situation from. Do you remember the series on Rogers. Well during the second strike we had only one comrades there. We wrote it up because despite our weakness our comrade was a leader there and we wanted to put forward our line in a rounded sense to the owkrers who were looking to him. The strike was was of particlar interest in other ways also..stalinist local and ~~XXX~~ a dramatic picture of the anti-labor drive. The paper was a great aid to our comrade there in his work , we managed to get some subs out of it., and if the strike hadn't been defeated and the militants scattered across the country I am sure we would have come out with a caucus and some party members.

We want our paper to be not just a journal of comments and observations but a guide to action , to advance our positon on the day to day events,to express the view points of our comrades in the unions etc.....to be a party builder.

I hope you have something in mind for the coming issue of the paper. We will be going to press around the 28 or 29th of September again. By the way how did you like the little item on the IWA...I put it in to give the paper a national coverage.

Well there is good news in this letter in the enclosed little note that we received just the other day. I have not written this fellow an answer as I figure that the much better way is for one of the comrades to hop onto his horse and get down to see ~~XXX~~ him right away.

Which only goes to remind me again.....we need some news of Vancouver branc h activity ..what you are doing. I gather from terse reports in the minutes that there are paper distributions, that we are running a class...but there are never any details which let us wirte these doings up into the paper. Did we hold a Trotsky memorial meeting...are we planning to hold any in the next few months. Even though we may not turn up any crwod or apparently worth while contacts we must hold such meetingsfrom time to time to pick up persons like Rall. At the same time we have develop speakers from our own ranks. And there is no other way than by holding street corner and hall meetings.

I am also enclosing a list of expired subs.

I am wondering what you think of the possibility of the branch puting on a modest subscription drive this fall. Will the fund raising campaign take up all our energies or are there some comrades who will not be involved in contacting persons for donations and would be free for sub work. I would not want you to take it up with the branch as it may possibly be that we are tied up and we dont want to cut inot the fund drive. We could certainly do with some more subs in Vancouver area to take us over the winter and privde us with some new contacts for the coming seasons work

We expect to get the pamphlet from the binder early next week. I am sure you vil be pleased with our first publishing endeavor. Will send you one as soon as it comes off.

hoping to hear from you soon

warmest regards

Ross

87 King Street West
Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.

November 4, 1948

(Rod) (CCF M.P.)

Dear Comrade Young:

I must apologize for the mix-up that developed around our attempts to meet one another. I sincerely regret that I was compelled to come east before having the pleasure of meeting you.

I hope Comrade Bill Whitney, in whose hands I had left the arrangements, explained the situation to you. At the time that we settled on the Wednesday night I had expected to be in Vancouver all of the following week. However at the last moment I was compelled to leave for Prince Rupert and to ask others to inform you of this fact. Of course the Prince Rupert trip upset the whole schedule as I had definite commitments that forced me to leave Vancouver immediately following our Sunday night meeting.

I am sure that being somewhat experienced at touring the country yourself that you can appreciate the difficulties that arise on such a trip with such a limited time schedule.

Possibly you will pass through Toronto shortly on the way to the next session. If so I would appreciate it if you could find time to get in touch with me.

Fraternally

Ross Dowson

I have been compelled to send this note via Ottawa as I have misplaced your address.

#6,686,West 8th:Ave:
Vancouver B.C.
9th: November, 1948.

Dear Comrade Dowson,

Many thanks for your letter of explanation, these things will happen when you are working on a tight time schedule. The latest guess on the opening of Commons places the date at the third week in January and I have made tentative arrangements to hold meetings all along the line so as not to waste the opportunity of using the free transportation-pass.

As soon as the session is started I shall arrange to get into Toronto on my first free weekend and will write you in advance so that our next attempt at a meeting be more fortunate.

Members of the Revolutionary Workers Party in B.C. must have told you that despite differences of opinion over the years we have always been on terms of mutual respect and comradeship. I hope that this proletarian fraternity will continue and take this opportunity to suggest that should you or any other member of your party have occasion to visit Ottawa during a session I will always be glad of the opportunity of discussion.

For International Solidarity,

Rod Young.

Rod Young. M.P.

(June 10th Van News Ha

June 10th Van News Hard Pd.

Vancouver's M.P.-Elect A Communist?

Early in the Vancouver-Centre election campaign, local communists who take their marching orders from Moscow accused Rod Young, now M.P.-Elect for Vancouver Centre of being a Trotskyite.

Addressing the House of Commons Tuesday night, A. L. Smith, Progressive-Conservative from Calgary West, made the charge that Rod Young is an out-and-out communist of the rabid Trotsky school.

The charge was tacitly confirmed by Dorothy Steeves, provincial president of the C.C.F. Mrs. Steeves sidestepped the direct question whether Mr. Young is a communist. She merely denied that he is a pro-Stalinist.

Colin Cameron also hedged on the subject. He said that Mr. Young is a strong opponent of communist fellow travellers. That may well be true. But Mr. Cameron did not assert that Mr. Young is a strong opponent of rabid Trotsky-Marxian teaching.

The gradations of leftist totalitarianism, it seems, can be worked out to a fine point. But they are rather overwhelming, to say the least, to perturbed and unenlightened souls outside intelligensian circles.

November 18, 1948

Reg Bullock
Vancouver

Dear Reg;

I hope that you can find the time to drop us a line on recent doings. Havent heard a word since I left the fair city aside from your one short note.

How did you like the last issue of the apaper above all the IWA article. We sent you an extra three hundred over the usual bundle as I thought that this would be a particularly good issue to distribute at the various IWA plants, the laobr council meetings etc. I mailed a copy off to LLoyd just as soon as it came off the press but have heard no word. Don wrote Stan to tell him the extra issues were coming and asked him to wire us if you could use more. Toronto is willing to give up its quota this issue. I gather since we have heard from no one that you require no more copies.

Don liked the article and if I say so myself I think that it is not a bad one...but above all we want to hear what you comrades think about it. There will have to be a follow up in the next issue coming from there. And of course I am particularly interested to know what Lloyd and Tom thinks of it.

Jean Marie has been in Toronto for the last week. We have had extensive discussions on the IWA and he is in general agreement with my opinions which I believe you are also in agreement with. He was very much disturbed by the developments until I was able to give him a more rounded picture of things. He knows the Fadling Ballard gang through working with them. We all want to know what the latest is with Lloyd and Tom, their relations with us and with the Fadling gang.

I see Lloyd is now protem vice president. When are the regular elections sheduled to take place. I hope they are soon so we can really line up a slate in 1-217 at least of candidates who are either party members or are really tied to us. It would seem to me now that the IWA is pretty well lined up that we really have to retrench..pull Tom into 1-217 and get him onto the executive. Charlie despite his inexperience and general backwardness should also be raised up for we have to have people we can trust. I think that we have to start to operate now with the idea that we are going to take over 1-217 and then only then will we move out from this base of operations into the camps etc.

My impression is from some of the reports in the IWA paper which Don has been receiving from his mother that the IWA Fadling gang have pulled back a little in their boss collaboration. Of course it may only be the editors sensitivy to the job that the Stalinists have been doing with these little tid-bits. If however they are continuing to play ball with the bosses in my opinion we really have to get down to work and roll up a campaign against them . This is no doubt

the best line for us to build a really solid and progressive caucus around. If Fadling takes a false move on the negotiations over the board in the camps question and so forth. But as we agreed before it will really have its beginnings and begin to roll up the militant behind us when we protest all the various little incidents on the job such as the one you raised about the company distributing IWA material.

I am sure that the Fadling crew are going to attempt to justify all their actions on the baisis that the Stalinists comitted these crimes all during the war years and they will attmmpt to get the workers to accept them as the norm. It seemd to me that Lloyd had that tandency the night we met at the office.

That same night we posed the question of the need [redacted] to lead some militant anti-boss action to nip the slanders against us in the bud and the same time to draw the attention of the workers at large as to our differentiation from Fadling etc. If class collaboration is rife still, it seems to me that we must make definite plans to carry out some such action. On the basis of the present lull on the laobr front it need only be a very modest scale job. A job directed against the bosses on an issue which confronts workers on many jobs .

[redacted]

I see that only 90 workers revocked their checkoff with the IWA in the New Westminster local. What has become of them and waht is our policy now on such cases. Since the WIUC appears to be so roundly defeated there is no doubt that the party will only carry the ghost of it along for a short while....only to save face. Pritchett, Dalskog and coy will have to find other births some where else. But lesser known and marked party members will no doubt go back into the IWA or attempt to do so. The Stalinsts appear to have a local here in Ontario at Stratford but they are needless to say staying quiet. Is there such a thing as the closed shop in the IWA? Are these non members of the IWA doomed to leave the industry?

Taken up again on Monday November 22 after a short trip to Windsor (Detroit) which we were prevented from making by the U.S. Immigration Authorities.

No doubt the Stalinists have kept quiet in many places where they estimated they had no chance with the WIUC. Many of these workers are militants and good types. The whole apparatus that they have followed has been roundly defeated so that these workers should be susceptible to our approach. I do not doubt that they will pick up support from outside themselves on the baiss of Fadling class collaboration. and may again in a short time amount to a sizeable force. Under the new alignment of forces I think we should now discuss very seriously in the group the problem of our caucus and its relationship to these Stalinist workers. It would seem to me from down here that these workers will possibly provide us with a new whole arena of contacts and will possibly form the very base of the anti-Fadling caucus in the IWA which we must get to work on right away.

This morning the latest WIUC paper came into the office. There is a very disturbing article on a supposed speech made by Tom. It disturbs me because it is just the kind of speech that the Fadling gang would make. No doubt it is a fabricatio

---although can we be so sure(just between you and I) We know Tom's tendencies and the pressure on him is terrific. No doubt Tom and Lloyd will deny all these reports that are appearing in the WIUC paper. We all know the nature of the Stalinist press but I am not satisfied for one, to dismiss these stories so lightly as they are in line with the White Bloc policy and our comrades are out on a limb in this situation. I no longer believe that we can afford to satisfy ourselves with the belief that they are all lies . We must raise this matter with the two comrades, of course from the point of view of confidence in them and that they are lies of the whole cloth, but something more must be done.

Lloyd and Tom now have the pages of the B.C. lumberworkers open to them They must use this paper to make a statement on their own behalf. Lloyd should make a statement to the membership , He is after all first vice president and Alsbury has done this. The statement obviously cant be an attack on the Fadling crew but it should be a statement from him on the need to build the union on a class basis , prepare for militant struggles, know who the enemy is, ...generally speaking a statement which will take up these stalinist charges which thousands of workers are reading and possibly believing and give them the lie...the IWA is the heir of all the militant ttrad tions of the B.C. lumberworkers, we are the deadliest enemies of the bosses and we are out to build this union at the expense of the bosses....etc ..etc.

W should hold a meeting of the party comrades in the IWA and make this proposal to Lloyd. If he cannot write it, you or Stan should BE struck off to do the job and after it is checked over it should be handed to Lloyd to put in the paper. Let Alsbury and the rest of them try to refuse its publication. It will only be an attack on them by possible implication...if they are guilty of class collaboration. I know in advance that Lloyd and Tom will try to brush the WIUC charges off as not worthy of our notice...as I raised this matter when the Tribune first started the campaign against Lloyd. We can ignore these charges only at the greatest peril...for many militants know that th e elements that we are working with at least are guilty of all the Stalinists say...to be silent is to admit that we tag right along with them. We have to start the differentiation at once in my opinion.

I intend to first thing in the morning to write Lloyd along this line but you of course are the key to the situation.

What is the score with Tom. Has he raised the matter of leave of absence...or have we seen him at all? If he raises this matter I do not see how it can be refused but we should use the occasion to again make it absolutely clear that this means only from branch meetings, public meetings and routine party work.....that the IWA comrades must meet regularly and that Tom and Lloyd must be there and participate in the decisions and discussion and carry out the line.

Incidently if he now raises any of the old slanders about unsolicited correspondence etc I think it would be a good idea to have the various items in the correspondence that he has distorted somewhere around the office so that we can just pull out the whole story....of course we do not want to raise any of this old crap ourselves.

I wrote Rod Young an apology or explanation of my missing up on the appointment and received a very warm reply stating that he hoped to be able to drop in on the office on his way to the next session and would welcome anyone of us at Ottawa.

You can imagine that I am very anxious to hear all the latest and your opinions of the above ideas. Hope you can find time to write me--or ask one of the other comrades to put us in the picture. Many of the comrades are disturbed by the

hole situation and I have been "valiantly" attempting to still their fears, building up Lloyd and Tom and the IWA fraction as a whole but I myself need some reassurances...or at least some information. Angus has written me two letters in the last few weeks pleading for information and I have given him your address which he did not have. Perhaps you could send him a carbon copy of what you send me.

comradely

Ross

hope you received the signs and pictures alright.....we put the room number on the side of the big one for downstairs so that it could be clipped off and used for the new and bigger place when we move to it.

How is the drive coming? Just received a hundred from Montreal. Toronto coming along but a little slow.

Take 2 new members into Toronto branch this week

December 13, 1948

Dear Reg;

I have finally found a couple of hours that seem to be more or less free so I am taking up a few odds and ends that have been left over from past correspondence. After tonight we will be so busy here that the odds are that I will find little time until after the New Year.

The election campaign is just starting off in high gear. We have been busy the last few weeks getting ready for it and we now appear to be in good shape for distributions, sound truck work, public meetings etc. I only managed to polish off the manifesto late last night. Took me some time but I think it is the best one yet. Will send some out when we get it off the press. Have sent letters to all locals asking for endorsation. Tonight our letter to the CCL council should hit the floor. We will not be endorsed but I am hoping that the party will get considerable publicity through the debate. The AFL council meets Thursday and we are covering the dalegates with copies of the letter sent the executive. Publicity is sketchy so far but we have managed to get one column of about 8 inches out of the Globe and Mail to-date....very favourable too. The only thing wrong with it is that it doesn't do the party just Dowson a build up job. Here is a copy Will you put it on the bulletin board for the comrades to see.

Received your short note or was it Ruth's which enclosed $1.00 for the two subs.

Did I give you the name of the North Vancouver friend who sent in $4.50. His name is G.A.H. Baxter 532 East 18th Street, North Vancouver. Can you arrange for one of the comrades to go around and see him, thank him and generally feel him out as to party possibilities. Or do you already know all there is to know.

If some comrade is not too busy some night he might drop around and get in a conversation with H.J. Colbourne, 2483 West Broadway(Suite 1) He sent us a letter renewing his sub and correcting a slip up in the address. The letter is quite friendly and he might be a possibl contact.

By the way you have not told me the score on that red-haired friend of yours. What is the money situation and waht is her name and address.

By now you have probably guessed that we only sent 100 copies of the last issue of the apaper to Vancouver. The Toronto election was the biggest news and I figured that we had greater use of the paper. From other remarks I also gathered that you had not been able to dispose of all of the copies of the last issue which is more valueable for distribution at the mills.

I am enclosing the copy of your last article for the paper. Perhaps you would like to go over it. There were no important changes ma made aside from the switching of the order, the addition of the decision to permit WIUCers into the IWA and a few cuts

From the point of view of style I think it is the best one yet.I hated to cut the second paragrph from the end but we had no room so no alternative. The switch around was designed to bring the latest news developments up to the front of the article. If the article had any weakness it seems to me it was that it contained little that was new. That is why I added the part on the WIUC decsion. However I know we had to have an article on the situation as all our comrades and contacts are watching this situation to see how our comrades condict themselves Now looking backwards I am not so fussy about the last paragraph which gives Murray a pat on the back for intervention in the B.C. monkey shines however it is now printed and only so muchwater under the bridge.

We are all looking forward to the IWA artcile for the next issue. I can fully appreciate how tired you must be working for a living aftre that long soft snap in the shipyards. I bet Ruth has no trouble handling you now when the discussion gets feirce. [illegible] I hope that you will not find it too tough to meet the deadline. Well we will give you lots of warning. Can you have the article here by January 4th. That should give you lots of time to think it over write and rewrite etc. I hope 4 to five pages will do you.

This brings me up to the real motiviation of this letter. I have been trying as best one can to follow this situation at the Iron River Logging Company. From here it seems to me to be full of dangers for us and at the samevtime full of opportunities for us. [illegible]

Stop me if I am wrong....you will understand that my sole source of information is Nov 29 IWA paper. Dec 1WIUC, the Toronto press....but it seems that the Alsbury Fadling gang are guilty of a straight case of strike breaking and scab herding. This of course is the line of the WIUC but just a casual reading of the IWA press substantiates this charge..."illegal strike" and so forth.

You will recall that I suggested to Lloyd that waht we needed was some militant action of some kind, no matter how small, to enable us to demonstrate that we are militants and thereby undermine the Stalinist attempts to link us up with the Fadling Alsbury gang and therby permit us to commence the differentiation within the IWA, build our forces, etc.

Well it seems to me that this is it..not the way we exactly wanted it but it will do and we must meet this isituation in a responsible and militant manner. This is a real opportunity for us to organize the best elements in 1@217 around us. The issue appears to be very clear and very simple. I am sure that all the best elements in the IWA are if not up in arms at least very much disturbed. According to the IWA the IWA men respected the picket line and the crashing comes almost entrioly from the Alsbury leadership

We should be able to roll up a real protest movement in 1-217 through the Rank and File caucus. ..xxx pass a resolution of protest in the next meeting....this can be the beggining of a real consolidation of forces around our leadership. It seems to me that we should take up the matter of a local paper. 1-217 could support one and it would give us a vehicle with which we could build real rank and file support in the mills etc.c

The papers at hand say nothing of Tom's or Lloyd's role. Only the

clipping that you enclosed with your letter suggests that we may possibly be involved.

Did Tom straigthen this out.? [redacted] What does Lloyd think of the situation? Have you taken up the matter of the adviseability of a public statement on his part or just how we should conduct [redacted] ourselves. I am relieved to see that we have somehow managed to keep clear of it. Madden and Alsbury are the only ones mentioned in the press down here. ..for if anyone of our comrades had anything to do with it from the picutre that I get of the situation we would be forced to publicly repudiate him,for this is not just a matter that concerns the B.C. comrades but the entire international.

But we cannot afford to just keep clear of the situation---sit this out. If Alsbury and co get away with this without any [redacted] opposition it will mark a real change of realtionship of forces in the right wings favour and make the future fight against them ten thousand more time difficult. I think that the Stalinists are too far gone to really recoup anything from this in so far as the WIUC is concerned but if we do not do a job on Alsbury we will be stained with the crime in the eyes of all the militants....and after all we know that they are the decsiive forces.

I hope you can spare the time to let me know some of the details of the situation and if we have a true picture down here. Would you give us an idea waht the various comrades in the IWA are thinking about it...[redacted] waht action has been taken and what action is contemplated.

How are we coming with the Fund Drive. Hope we can clear it up in the next week or so ..so I can close the books. There will be a final report going out as soon as we get the word from Vancouver.

comradely

Ross

December 14,1948

Dear Comrades Lloyd and Tom; (Vancouver Branch)

I have been intending to write to you for some time now but conditions have been such that it has been impossible for me to do so what with the paper, piled up correspondence, preparations for the election campaign, the fund drive, and now the election campaign itself.

All of the N.C. members have been consulted as to your (Lloyd's) request for a leave of absence and have signified their agreement. Comrades Murray and Jean have asked that their opinions be recorded: "We are in favour of releasing Comrade Whalen from party responsibilities such as activity of a normal kind as attending party meetings, public branch and executive, taking classes, writing for the paper, participating in the work of the N.C. etc, but because of the important role he is playing in the trade union field he must maintain the closest contact with the party in this field."

I do not know that it is necessary to say any more on this as I believe this to be generally the attitude of all the N.C. members on this question.

I am sure that you fully appreciate the vital necessity of maintaining the very closest working contact with all of the IWA comrades and participating in all the party trade union caucus meetings. It is through such close contact, discussion and planning of strategy and tactics that we will be able to educate and develop the splendid material that our party already has it the IWA. It is above all necessary that the policy that you and Tom follow be a policy decided upon in complete agreement with the party comrades. It is only through a clearly understood, correct and coordinated policy that our forces in the IWA can take on some flesh and perform the vital task of making concrete gains for the party.

I assume that you have had a rounded discussion with the comrades on the Courtenay developments. I have been attempting to follow the situation as best one can from the sketchy reports appearing in the boss press and that of the IWA and WIUC.

According to the IWA Lumberworkers, the strike was called by the WIUC over dismissal of two fallers. There are 100 men on the operation, 46 of them in the IWA. The Stalinists set up the picket line which was respected by the IWA rank and file members. Suddenly Alsbury and Co. land on the scene. They do not take over the strike and its leadership, support the struggle against the bosses and displace the WIUC leaders, but immediately label the strike illegal – illegal because it breaks the B.C. slave labor Bill 39 — the ICA act. The IWA press calls the strikers "saboteurs" of production as all class collaborationists call strikers, and attempts to label the stoppage "an infantile exhibition by the new organization." I have read Conroy's phony editorial. A stupid attempt to translate this strike into an attempt to destroy the IWA — how???? He utilizes all the vile arguments of strike breakers and scabs and tops the whole thing off with a red-baiting tirade.

You will recall Lloyd, the suggestion that I made at the party caucus meeting that we must look for and if necessary help develop a situation that will permit us to very dramatically

differentiate ourselves from the Fadling-Alsbury crew in a militant action or struggle over policy. It looks like this is it to me.

As yet we have received no inkling of the policy followed by our comrades but it seems to me that we must openly condemn the IWA action. The exact tactic to be followed, your role and the conduct of our comrades from the floor, would have to be worked out from there, based on the knowledge of the reaction of the militants etc.... but this can well be the opening wedge. The issue appears to be quite clear and no doubt there is considerable disquiet over it… one can even gather this from the Conroy edit. Issues of this character can be a real consolidating factor for the militants and this after all is the main task confronting us.

I do not believe that we can let this incident go by. As we all understand one of the biggest factors in the routing of the Stalinists was the general reactionary trend in the trade union movement in this country. This combined with the healthy and progressive reaction of the workers to the Stalinist rule. The Stalinist defeat opened new opportunities for us at the same time as it raised to the surface the Alsburys, Sickoras etc. Being a more powerful force, with the entire apparatus in their hands etc., the latter have so far made the most headway in the struggle in the IWA. If we let the right wing carry through this action without protest or opposition, permit them to continue to strengthen their hold, we will shortly find that all the avenues that were opened up by the Stalinist defeat will be closed for us for a considerable period.

I am quite anxious to hear your opinion of the Courtenay situation and the general developments in the IWA over the past two months. I am sending a copy of this letter to the branch as it deals with the leave of absence that was referred to the National Committee.

with warmest regards

(signed) Ross Dowson